

WILD NEWS

MONDAY, SEPT. 20, 7:30 P.M.

SEPT. MEETING

Marion Blois, Assistant Professor of Biology, NVCC, will present "Virginia Wildflowers," a slide program and commentary at the Wildflower Society's September meeting. Marion is the instructor for NVCC's popular Spring and Summer Wildflower courses. She has presented wildflower slide programs for garden clubs and other area groups.

Our September meeting will be Monday, the 20th, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Ln. and Sudley Rd., Manassas.

YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

We hope all prospective members who have been receiving complimentary copies of the newsletter will join so they can remain on our mailing list. The next issue will be mailed only to Society members.

In the future two complimentary issues will be sent to prospective members at their request or at the request of a member.

As part of our public relations program we will continue to mail newsletters to members of the press, and other groups, agencies and organizations.



WILDFLOWER-OF-THE-MONTH

The color of September's wildflower has been called "a richer red than the bird which shares its name." Articles begin on page 3.

RESCUE AT FERN BROOK

ELAINE HAUG
Chairman, Survey Committee

A Plant Rescue is scheduled at Fern Brook on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 10:00 a.m. Participants should bring their own digging tools and plastic bags. Meet at the pond, a short distance down the entrance road on the left. Fern Brook is located on Rt. 234 about 1 mi. south of the Lake Jackson bridge.

Several members participated in the Survey at Fern Brook in July. Plants marked for rescue include Maidenhair, Christmas and other ferns, Hepatica, Wild Ginger, Orchids, and Rattlesnake Plantain. Surplus rescued plants will be available for participants own wildflower gardens.

Other surveys and rescues will be scheduled later including an area in Lake Ridge. Call me at 670-2347 if you can help with the rescue on Oct. 9th.

SEED EXCHANGE

We plan to have a program on starting wildflower seed indoors at a later meeting. At that time we will have our seed exchange.

However, many wildflower seeds can be sown outdoors from now until frost (after all, that's nature's method). If you have collected seed through the summer and would like to bring some to the Sept. meeting to share with other members, please do so. We will have envelopes for the seed at the meeting which can be labeled with species name, date and place collected, and name of collector. The envelopes can also be used for the seed exchange to be held later. If you can't come to the meeting, but would like a supply of envelopes for your seed, call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431. Again — be sure to properly label all seeds.

WILDFLOWER CATALOGS

According to a survey of wildflower nurseries conducted by the New England Wild Flower Society, the following mail-order suppliers either propagate or rescue the native plants they sell — none are collected.

Appalachian Wildflower Nursery

Rt. 1, Box 275A
Reedville, Pa. 17084

Woodland flowers, shrubs, and trees. Catalog \$1.00.

Garden Place

P.O. Box 83

Mentor, Oh. 44060

Wild & cultivated perennials and herbs. Free catalog.

Great Lakes Wildflowers

Box 1923

Milwaukee, WI. 53201

Prairie plants. Free catalog.

Lamb Nurseries

E. 101 Sharp Ave.

Spokane, Wash. 99202

Extensive selection of wild and cultivated perennials, rock garden plants, herbs, and shrubs. Free catalog.

Prairie Nursery

P.O. Box 365

Westfield, WI. 53964

Native prairie and meadow plants and seeds. Catalog .50

Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery

2825 Cummings Rd.

Medford, OR. 97501

Extensive selection of alpine, rock and woodland plants including some very choice wildflowers. Cat. 1.50

Windrift Prairie Shop

R.D. 2

Oregon, IL. 61061

Prairie plants and seeds. Catalog .30

Woodlanders

1128 Colleton Ave.

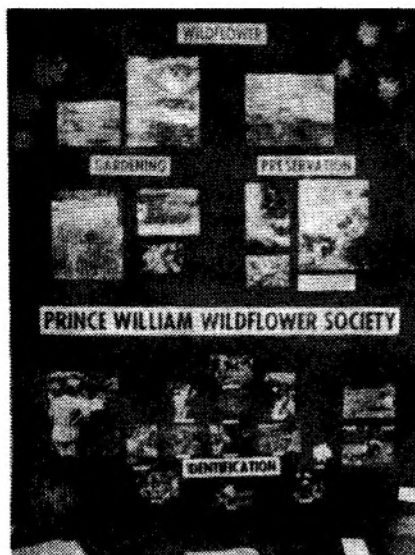
Aiken, S.C. 29801

Native Carolina wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Cat. 1.00

V.W.P.S. ANNUAL MEETING

The Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society's first Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 16 at the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Education Center at Laurel Ridge, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna.

In response to the notice in our last newsletter 20 Prince William Wildflower Society members joined the V.W.P.S. and are eligible to participate in the Annual Meeting. More details at our September meeting.



FAIR
EXHIBIT
A
WINNER!

THALIA
ROLAND
Chairman,
Education
Committee

Surprise! Our exhibit won a prize at the Fair. And we didn't even know it was in competition!

Judging by the number of handouts taken, hundreds of people stopped to learn about the Society.

The Society extends special appreciation to members who helped make the exhibit a success. Elaine Haug and Ed Milhous found exhibit space, and Ed provided guidance on number of publications to print, and getting information from the Fair hierarchy.

Elaine, Nancy Arrington, Sharon Jones, Blair Christolon, and John Roland served as design consultants. Nancy provided headline type, and designed and had printed most of the publications. Blair laminated the photos, and wrote the library brochure. Sharon's time and talent produced the large photos.

Nicky Staunton did the wildflower drawings used in the publications. Elaine contributed photos and pressed Queen Anne's Lace. Thanks to Carlton Harris and Nicky whose wildflower gardens were photographed, and to the Fern Brook rescuers whose efforts are now Society history. John helped get the exhibit together and on the wall at the Fairgrounds.

The exhibit is now in storage and available for display. We will make it and the publications available to organizations or groups who could provide minimum security for periods of 4 to 6 weeks. Any ideas? Call me with them at 368-9792.

The biggest thank-you goes to Thalia Roland whose time, talent, and inspired leadership from concept to finished product made the exhibit possible. THANKS!!!!

Nancy Arrington

CARDINAL FLOWER

ALONG THE TRAIL

MARION BLOIS
Ass't. Professor of Biology, NVCC

The most outstanding feature of Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is its color. Instead of trying to invent new terms to describe that spectacular color I will quote what others have written about it:

"vivid, deep, soul-satisfying red"

"brighter than fire-engine red"

"brightest of all the American wildflowers"

I will add only that the writers were not exaggerating! The stunning sight of even a single Cardinal Flower along the trail in August and September is something you won't soon forget.

Cardinal Flower is the only red member of the Lobelia (*Lobelioideae*) Sub-family which belongs to the Bluebell (*Campanulaceae*) Family. Lobelias were named in honor of Matthias de l'Obel, a 17th century Flemish herbalist. Other Lobelias in our area include the Great Blue Lobelia (*L. siphilitica*) and the more common Pale-Spike Lobelia (*L. spicata*) and Indian-Tobacco (*L. inflata*). All are the familiar shades of blue characteristic of the Lobelia family.

Usually Cardinal Flower grows 15-36" tall with unbranched leafy stems, but occasionally the stem is branched and the plant can grow up to 6' tall. The flowering spike consists of numerous slender blossoms about 2" long. The 2-6" long alternate leaves are tooth-edged, oblong to lance shaped, and pointed at both ends. They are either a solid bright Christmas green or bronzy-green.

Cardinal Flower grows in wet, sunny meadows, along streams, and in lightly shaded damp woodlands from New Brunswick to Michigan and Minnesota, south to Florida and Texas, and west to Colorado and Kansas. It grows in every Virginia County according to Dr. A.M. Harvill, Jr. in Atlas of the Virginia Flora.

Locally Cardinal Flower can be seen along streams and damp roadsides. According to Jean Chitren, several rather large areas brighten the trails at Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, and Barbara Mauller reports some small areas at Manassas National Battlefield Park. It often grows with Jewel Weed in our area.

The hummingbird is Cardinal Flower's main pollinator. The hummingbird's eye is more sensitive to

CULTIVATION AND PROPAGATION

JACKIE RALYA
Chairman, Propagation Committee

The species name *cardinalis* means cardinal but it refers to the shape of the corolla (lip) like a Cardinal's miter (Catholic Church headgear). It has nothing to do with the red color of the cardinal birds.

Cardinal Flower grows naturally in neutral to slightly acid soil with constant moisture. The soil need not be extremely wet but it must never dry out. It prefers full sun but will grow in semi-shade. Ideally Cardinal Flower should be grown in a bog garden, at the edge of a garden pool or along the banks of a stream or pond. Other possible locations include a constantly damp spot near a downspout or leaky outdoor faucet. It can be grown in an ordinary perennial border if the gardener is prepared to meet its need for constant moisture.

Propagation can be done by layering, root division in early spring, mid-summer stem cuttings and seed sowing.

Sow seed on top of moist sterile medium. Germination will begin in one to two weeks. Transplant in six weeks to 2" pots. Gradually harden off before transplanting to the garden. Set the plants about 9" apart with the crown at soil level.

A heavy mulch around the plant will conserve moisture during summer and will protect the shallow root system during cold weather. However, the North Carolina Botanical Garden cautions against covering the evergreen leaves of the basal offshoots because the plant takes advantage of winter sunlight for active growth in all but the coldest of temperatures.

To encourage more vigorous offshoots, thereby increasing the life span of the plant, cut the stems back after flowering. Leave only one or two stalks for seed pods.

A major insect pest is the Red Banded Leaf Roller, a small active 3/4" long greenish caterpillar with a distinctive red band from which it derives its name. The adult moth deposits its eggs on the leaf of the host plant. The eggs hatch in a few weeks and begin feeding. Four weeks later, the caterpillar becomes full grown and will begin to pupate within the silk

ALONG THE TRAIL, Continued

light at the red end of the spectrum, and its long beak can reach to the bottom of Cardinal Flower's long tube for nectar. Since hummingbirds are more rare than many other pollinators there is very little cross-fertilization and little seeding in Cardinal Flower. However, survival of the species is assured by the large number of tiny seeds packed into each pod and by numerous perennial offshoots.

On Prince William Wildflower Society members' list of 12 favorite wildflowers Cardinal Flower ranked number seven.

Cardinal Flower is rare in Prince William County and should never be picked or disturbed unless threatened by development.

NATURAL LANDSCAPING BOOKS, Continued

tative species of 12 major plant communities are listed in the 20-page appendix. Some attention is given to planting techniques, management and maintenance practices. The final chapter appropriately illustrates the design process and plan implementation for several residential and commercial sites.

Natural Landscaping is well written and an excellent reference for both the professional and the hobbyist.

In terms of sheer quantity of information **Nature's Design** is almost overwhelming. General information is presented on seemingly every subject associated with landscaping. The geographical scope of the book includes the entire United States from forest to desert.

Most of the text concerns landscape design. Geology, soils, water tables, climate, vegetation, and wildlife are all considered in site analysis. Functional uses of plants include control of climate, erosion, pollution, and noise.

The author tries to present all the possibilities and options taken into account by a good design; she succeeds in presenting a simple comprehensive overview that many times lacks depth. The captions explaining the numerous illustrations are quite informative and should not be overlooked.

Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants (forbes) are listed by habitat and growth characteristics for each of 14 regions. Three different regional charts list plants which occur in Virginia's Piedmont so the charts must be carefully scrutinized.

The section concerned with landscape construction emphasizes retaining walls and privacy fences and installing various paving materials. ➡

CULTIVATION & PROPAGATION, Continued

bound rolled leaves. In two weeks the adult emerges and the cycle begins again. Two broods can be expected in a single season. If you have only a slight infestation, open the leaves and destroy the pupa. When desperate, spray with *Bacillus thuringitis* (Dipel) or Pyrethrum.



WORK DAY
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 25

We are very pleased that Conway Robinson is one of several areas in Virginia being considered by the Virginia Game Commission for a "Watchable Wildlife" program. On August 16 four representatives of the Commission visited the Forest with Tom Davidson, Joe Kemper, Nancy Arrington, and myself.

We have begun a clean-up project at the entrance and picnic areas. Our first "work day" was held in August. We had some help from Scout Troop 955 members Duane Harris and Jake Rupp.

Another "work day" is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25. We will start at 8:00 a.m. and work until 3:00 p.m. You may join in at any time— please come even if you can only help for an hour or so. We need all the help we can get — work consists of picking up stick, stones and trash, trimming trees, and cutting grass. Call me, 221-4489, if you will be able to help out.

In the final section, "Creating and Maintaining the Natural Landscape," a wide range of topics is covered, including soil preparation, basic landscape types and maintenance, suggestions for attracting wildlife, and propagation and collection procedures.

For those who require basic information, background and general guidelines, the comprehensiveness of **Nature's Design** should be considered. Since so many subjects are discussed this is a good starting point for beginning gardeners. The text is simple and sometimes repetitive, not quite measuring up to its potential.

We will have the three books reviewed here at the Sept. 20 meeting. This will give anyone interested in purchasing one a chance to examine them more closely.

NATURAL LANDSCAPING BOOKS

REVIEWED BY JEAN MORGAN

Landscaping with Native Plants in the Middle Atlantic Region by Elizabeth N. duPont. Brandywine Conservancy. 1978. 72 pp. \$8.50 (soft cover).

Natural Landscaping: Designing with Native Plant Communities by John Diekelmann and Robert Schuster. McGraw-Hill. 1982. 276 pp. \$24.95.

Nature's Design: A Practical Guide to Natural Landscaping by Carol A. Smyser. Rodale Press. 1982. 390 pp. \$21.95.

The main attraction of landscaping with native plants is the prospect of minimum maintenance. Since plants are selected and placed in environments closely duplicating their native habitats, they tend to require little care in terms of watering, insect and disease control, and general cultural requirements.

Understanding the ecology in terms of its physical characteristics (climate, exposure, soil type, soil moisture and water table) forms the basis for choosing the proper species for creating native plantings. Observation of indigenous vegetation in a particular site provides a basis for choosing the appropriate species. The books reviewed here all address various aspects of natural landscaping.

Landscaping with Native Plants in the Middle Atlantic Region is an excellent study of native plants common to the Piedmont region from Connecticut to North Carolina. Ecological aspects of the naturalistic approach to gardening, though not as detailed as in the other two books, is adequate and easily understood.

The book's most outstanding feature is its presentation of the many plant species that exist in different types of conditions. One very valuable chart lists 13 landscape types and the herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees occurring in each. The landscape types are categorized not only as wet, moist, or dry, but also as wooded, open (meadow) or shaded (light to dense), thus providing useful information not found so detailed in most other publications. Another list describes plants in terms of the species height, color, and blooming dates. The subtle variations in nature's communities can be appreciated by this in-depth study. The lists and charts are most relevant for use in Virginia making the book an excellent resource for residents of our area.

Natural Landscaping identifies major native plant communities occurring in the northeast and discusses procedures involved in landscape design. The text explains the complexities and interdependence of ecological communities in terms of geographic divisions, characteristic land forms, climate, soil, and the plants themselves. Major plant communities occurring from Maine to Virginia, and west to the Mississippi are discussed individually. The appraisal of the development of these plant communities from glaciers to man's settlement illustrates the authors' sensitivity to the unique and subtle differences in many of our native landscapes.

In a thorough discussion of landscape design the authors deal with site analysis (aided by an excellent series of drawings), functional analysis (site use and needs), and choice and placement of species.

Basic landscape types discussed include open, semi-shaded, wetlands, and edges (transitional). Represent-

Continued on pg. 4

Enroll me/us as Charter Member(s) of the Prince William Chapter, Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society.

Annual Membership Dues:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5.00 Student/Senior Citizen | <input type="checkbox"/> 20.00 or more Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7.50 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 per group or club Associate (Ask for details) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 Family | |

Unable to join now, but keep me/us on your mailing list:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I would like to learn more about:

I/We plan to participate in the following:

Conservation

- Contact** - Contact local gov't agencies, developers, etc. to obtain permission to rescue plants
- Rescue** - Participate in plant salvage operations
- Relocation** - Provide temporary "holding" area on own property for rescued plants until preserves are ready

Development of nature trails, preserves at:

- Locust Shade Conway Robinson
- Education** - Develop programs, displays, literature, etc.
- Native Plant Promotion** - Wildflower cultivation & propagation, natural landscaping, beautification projects
- Public Relations** - Member newsletter, publicity
- Typing** **Telephoning** **Other:** _____

Experience & affiliations related to Society efforts:

Make check payable to Pr. Wm. Chapter, V.W.P.S. and mail to Pr. Wm. Wildflower Society, P.O. Box 462, Manassas, Va. 22110

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the last newsletter. Please add the names to your original list.

Carrig, Tom & Ealine
13305 Kahns Rd.
Manassas, Va. 22111
791-3378

Enright, Rosemary &
Coulter, Don
13057 Hyla Dr.
Manassas, Va. 22111
791-6460

Gast, Joyce & Joseph
15506 Yorktown Dr.
Dumfries, Va. 22026
680-2288

Gray, Nancy
11616 Smithfield Rd.
Manassas, Va. 22111
368-7228

LeKander, Mary
5310 Featherbed Ln.
Manassas, Va. 22110
754-4450

Mauler, Barbara
11605 Lee Hwy.
Manassas, Va. 22110
754-9079

Rion, J. Wallace
9736 Bragg Ln.
Manassas, Va. 22110

Sapp, Anna
15209 Calexico Ln.
Woodbridge, Va. 22193
670-2018

Smallwood, Kay
5770 Benford Dr.
Haymarket, Va. 22069
754-9247

Smith, Judith
4980 Poppy Ct.
Woodbridge, Va. 22192
590-1047

Stillman, Irma
3206 Riverview Dr.
Triangle, Va. 22172
221-2214

Weathers, Dorothy
6993 Champs Mill Ct.
Manassas, Va. 22111
791-5692

Welker, Nancy & Phil
12524 Marsteller Dr.
Nokesville, Va. 22123
594-2966

Wolfe, Carol
15209 Calexico Ln.
Woodbridge, Va. 22193
670-2018

York, Duane & Bernice
3510 Carson Dr.
Woodbridge, Va. 22193
670-4451

Omitted from original list:
Deola, Maggie & Jerry
4460 Dale Blvd.
Woodbridge, Va. 22193
670-3047

CHARTER MEMBER STATUS ENDS NOV. 1

Charter membership status in the Prince William Wildflower Society will terminate on Nov. 1, 1982. The Society is presently composed of 75 Charter Members, and anyone who joins before Nov. 1 will be joining as a Charter Member.

PINK LADY'S-SLIPPER NOW NO. 1

Results in the Favorite Wildflower Contest from ballots cast at the Fair are:

1. Pink Lady's-slipper, 2. Virginia Bluebell, 3. Jack-in-the-Pulpit, 4. Columbine, and tied for 5th place are Bloodroot, Cardinal Flower, and Dutchman's-breeches.

We'll have contest sheets at the Sept. meeting so members will be able to vote.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER CALENDAR

- Mon. Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. — Prince William Wildflower Society, Bethel Lutheran Church
Sat. Sept. 25, 8:00 a.m. — Work Day at C.R.M.F.
Sat. Sept. 25, 2:00 p.m. — Fall Flowers, Hike at Prince William Forest Park, Nature Center
Sat. Oct. 9, 10:00 a.m. — Wildflower Rescue at Fern Brook Subdivision
Sat. Oct. 16, V.W.P.S. Annual Meeting

Prince William Wildflower Society
P. O. Box 462
Manassas, Virginia 22110



Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis