

# WILD NEWS

JULY-AUGUST 1983

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY, A Chapter of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

## JULY MEETING:

# PRESERVING NATURAL DIVERSITY

MONDAY, JULY 18 7:30 PM ALL SAINTS CHURCH, DALE CITY

Our July program will be presented by Larry Morse, Staff Botanist, with the Nature Conservancy's headquarters in Washington. "The Nature Conservancy is a national conservation organization committed to the preservation of natural diversity by protecting lands containing the best examples of all components of our natural world."

"Since the Conservancy was formed in the early 50's "its members have been responsible for the preservation of 2,005,626 acres of forests, marshes, prairies, mountains, and islands: home to rare and endangered species of wildlife and plants."

Larry, who is also a member of the VWPS Board of Directors, will explain the Conservancy's preservation process from determining which areas are chosen for consideration to the actual

land acquisitions. We will hear about the Conservancy's Virginia projects and become more aware of our role as a Chapter and as individuals in preserving our natural heritage.

We're meeting this month at All Saints Church on Saratoga Ln. in Dale City (map and directions elsewhere in this newsletter) for the convenience of members in eastern Prince William Co. (expect all of you to attend!). Because we're having such a good program we also want to make it easy for western members to attend so we'll be carpooling from Bethel Church, our usual meeting place. Meet at the Church, Sudley Rd. and Plantation Ln., at 6:45. For more carpooling information, call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803 (H) or 368-3943 (W). Please—let's have a good turnout.

Quotes from "The Nature Conservancy News", May/June 1983.

## SUMMER WILDFLOWER COURSE

A late summer wildflower course (Biol 299) will be offered at Manassas Campus, NVCC. The four-week course begins Thursday, July 21; lectures are 7:00-9:00 p.m., with four Saturday or Sunday field trips.

Instructor Marion Blois says the one-credit course will concentrate on identification of late summer flowers with emphasis on field work.

## WILDFLOWER-OF-THE-MONTH



In the absence of Marion Blois who is on vacation getting a first-hand look at desert plants, a not-up-to-our-usual-quality article appears on page 3.

## P.W.W.S. ANNUAL MEETING

Our Chapter Annual Meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 24 at 1:00 p.m. at Bethel Church, Manassas.

In addition to business necessities such as election of officers and approval of by-laws we plan to have some fun. Ideas include a plant and seed exchange and/or auction, a wildflower related program, perhaps a silent bid auction for artwork, books and other items, and refreshments.

Marie Davis has been appointed general chairman for the Annual Meeting. Chairmen and members are needed for several committees — call Marie, 361-1626, if you can help or if you have additional ideas for the meeting.

We expect participation from a large percentage of our membership — so please do your part. At the very least, mark Sept. 24 on your calendar and plan to attend.

## V.W.P.S. WILDFLOWER WEEKEND & ANNUAL MEETING

A weekend of lecture, field trips and other programs will precede VWPS's Oct. 10 Annual Meeting this year. Mark the weekend of Oct. 7, 8 & 9, and plan to attend as many events as you possibly can.

Programs involving members of our Chapter and possibly walks at Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, Manassas National Battlefield Park, and NVCC's Nature Trail are some of the activities scheduled at this time. More details in next newsletter.

### MAKE YOUR OWN P.W.W.S. T-SHIRT

## T-SHIRT WORKSHOP

At our last meeting Elaine Haug was wearing a T-shirt she had designed with Wildflowers of Prince William. A workshop is being set-up for anyone who is interested in doing a similar T-shirt.

The design is easily executed with liquid embroidery and is completely washable. Cost will be \$2.00 to cover cost of materials — bring your own T-shirt, preferably white. We will do our Society's logo, the Virginia bluebell, and perhaps others.

The workshop will be Wednesday, July 27 at 7:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church. For more information, call Elaine at 670-2347.

## COLLEGE APPRECIATES BOOK

We received the following letter from Cathy Sabol, Librarian at Manassas Campus, NVCC:

"Many thanks to . . . the Prince William Wildflower Society for the handsome book you donated to the Manassas Campus Library. Our students will find Wildflowers of Tidewater Virginia most helpful in identifying some of the flowers on our nature trail. Thank you again for your generous gift."

Two complimentary issues of "Wild News" will be sent to prospective members with the hope they will join our Chapter. Names of those who do join will remain on our mailing list. Send names of prospective members to: Roxetta Wyer, 9125 Peabody St., Manassas, Va. 22110, or call 361-8615.

## FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS

From the North Carolina Botanical Garden Newsletter:

Three-thousand requests for seeds of *Lobelia cardinalis*, the Wild Flower of the Year, have been received at the Garden so far this spring.

Because the Wild Flower of the Year Project has been so successful, we are running low on seed of Cardinal Flower. Please help us if you can. If you have Cardinal Flower plants growing at home, the Garden would appreciate any and all seed you can spare. Late September is generally when seed is brown in color and ready for collection. . . .

It has been decided to keep Cardinal Flower as the Wild Flower of the Year through 1984. The . . . project is jointly sponsored by the Garden Club of North Carolina and the North Carolina Botanical Garden. (Seed can be mailed to the garden : UNC-CH, Totten Center 457 A, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.)

From "The Virginia Gardener", Extension Div., VPI & SU, Blacksburg:

To improve germination of seed in summer, dig a shallow trench and trickle it full of water; let it soak in. Pour a shallow band of sand or vermiculite down the bottom of the furrow. Scatter seed thinly on the sand, then cover lightly with more sand and vermiculite. Cover the trench with an old board. Seeds sprout quickly in the warm, moist cavity under the board. Peek under the board every few days and, when sprouts just begin to poke through the sand, prop up the board with a block to admit air. After two or three days, remove the board. Even in hot, dry weather you can get a good stand of flower or vegetable seedlings with this method.



## FAIR DISPLAY

"Wildflower Conservation" will be the theme of our display at the Prince William County Fair, August 12-20.

Nicky Staunton is chairman of the display committee. Call her, 368-9803 (H) or 368-3943 (W) if you can help out. Though we didn't know last year's display would be judged, it was, and we won second place. We're aiming for first this year!



## BLACK-EYED SUSAN

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), a member of the composite family, is one of our most abundant summer wildflowers. Unlike many field flowers which came to our shores from Europe, black-eyed Susan is a native of the plains and prairies of our western states. Seeds were "brought east" in bundles of hay, and the very adaptable species quickly spread and now adds color to meadows, abandoned fields, and roadsides up and down the East coast.

Black-eyed Susan, as everyone knows, is not really black. The dark brown center consisting of hundreds of tiny disk flowers is surrounded by 10-20 yellow-orange ray flowers. The 1-3' stem and the lanceolate leaves are rough and covered with stiff hairs.

Bees, butterflies, wasps and numerous other pollinators are attracted to the colorful flowers. Nectar hidden deep in the tubular brown florets is accessible only to insects with long, slender tongues, but a generous supply of pollen is available to all.

Black-eyed Susan is a natural for meadow gardens, combining beautifully with chickory, Queen Anne's lace, milkweed, and other common roadside flowers. It is especially effective in naturalized masses. It blooms throughout the summer and will thrive in dry, poor soil.

Given good garden soil, fertilizer, and water during dry spells, black-eyed Susan is a colorful, long-blooming addition to a sunny cultivated border.

The plant is a biennial meaning seedlings bloom the second year. It will die after blooming so it is pointless to rescue or transplant a flowering plant. However, Marie Sperka in Growing Wildflowers says if blossoms are cut immediately after blooming, the plant often acts as a perennial and will live for several years.

Seed can be collected a month or so after blooming when the flower head dries out and turns brown. Seed can be sown immediately in outdoor beds or stored in a paper envelope in the refrigerator and sown indoors or outdoors in the spring. Sow generously as the germination rate for many members of the composite family is relatively low.

## CALENDAR

- July 14 Fern Walk. 1:30 p.m., National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE
- July 17 Wildflower Walk. 7 - 8 p.m., Braddock Road Park, 13241 Braddock Rd., Clifton
- July 18 Prince William Wildflower Society Chapter Meeting. 7:30 p.m., All Saints Church, Dale City
- July 19 Fern Walk. 1:30 p.m., National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE
- July 24 Wildflower Walk. 2:00 p.m., Manassas National Battlefield Park, Sudley Rd., Manassas
- July 27 Wildflower T-Shirt Workshop. 7:00 p.m., Bethel Church, Manassas
- July 30 Nature Hike. 1:00 p.m., Prince William Forest Park, Triangle

Aug. 12-20 Prince William County Fair

Aug. 14 Wildflower Walk. 2:00 p.m., Leesylvania State Park, Neabsco Rd., Woodbridge

Sept. 11 Wildflower Walk. 2:00 p.m., Manassas National Battlefield Park, Sudley Rd., Manassas

Sept. 18 Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting

Sept. 24 Prince William Wildflower Society Chapter Annual Meeting. 1:00 p.m., Bethel Church

Oct. 7-9 Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society Wildflower Weekend

Oct. 10 VWPS Annual Meeting

Oct. 30 Fall Foliage Walk. 2:00 p.m., Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, Rts. 29-211, Gainesville

For more information about the above events call Elaine Haug, 670-2347, Jean Chitren 221-4489 or Nancy Arrington 368-8431

## The Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

is pleased to announce its first

### Photography Contest

- Categories:
1. Virginia Wildflowers in Nature:
    - a. color prints.
    - b. black & white prints.
  2. Virginia Wildflowers in the Home Garden:
    - a. color prints.
    - b. black & white prints.

Eligibility: Everyone is eligible to enter!

Entry Fee: \$1.00 for Society members; \$1.50 for non-members.

Special  
Conditions:

Photographs must depict Virginia wildflowers (no hybrids or horticultural varieties) in a setting in Virginia. Entries may be mounted prints in color or black and white, with a size of the print being 8 x 10 inches minimum (mounting may be larger) and 16 x 20 inches maximum (including mounting). Prizes will be awarded and entries displayed at the Annual Meeting of the Society on October 10, 1983. Entrants must consent in advance to allow the Society to make a slide or duplicate copy of the entries for non-commercial uses to enhance public awareness of Virginia's flora.

How to Enter: Write for an entry form to Linda McMahan, 2811 N. Franklin Rd., Arlington, VA 22201. Deadline for entry is September 25, 1983.



*The Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society*

## LEESYLVANIA SURVEY BEGUN

On June 13, Dr. Ted Bradley accompanied members of our Survey Committee through some portions of the new Leesylvania State Park site located on Rt. 610 (Neabsco Rd.), Woodbridge.

The 500-acre wooded peninsula, surrounded by Neabsco and Powells Creeks and the Potomac River, was donated to the State of Virginia in 1978; funding for development is scheduled to begin in 1986. Plans include public beaches, boating areas, picnic areas, and nature trails.

Our Chapter has permission to survey and collect herbarium specimens throughout the Park and to rescue plants from construction sites. A Ranger's residence will be build later this year and we will schedule a rescue at that site in July.

Several specimens were collected on the 13th and Dr. Bradley will add them to Prince William County's records in the updated Atlas of the Virginia Flora.

If you'd like to participate in future surveying and collecting trips or in the July rescue, call Marie Davis, 361-1626, or Elaine Haug, 670-2347.

**Wildflower seeds are ripening now and can be collected through the summer and into fall.**

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members who have recently joined our Chapter:

Debra Doniger & Bob Porter  
9308 West St.  
Manassas, Va. 22110  
368-7352 (H)  
791-3151 (W)

Holly Green  
Rt. 4, Box 130  
Warrenton, Va. 22186  
347-7663

Mr. & Mrs. T.C. Jenkins  
P. O. Box 297  
Warrenton, Va. 22186  
347-7923 (H)  
347-2008 (W)

Daphne Kennard  
10294 Copeland Dr.  
Manassas, Va. 22110  
369-3828

The Warrenton Garden Club  
Mrs. J. Brook Semple, Pres.  
Suffield Farm  
Warrenton, Va. 22186  
347-1354

Renewal:  
Margaret Eccles  
8412 Yorkshire Ln.  
Manassas, Va. 22111  
368-2099

Elaine Haug and Nancy Arrington will present a program on Wildflower Conservation for the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation Board on Thursday, July 14.



PLEASE  
NOTE . . .

Dues renewal in Oct.  
regardless of date  
you join . . .

Now that we are a chapter of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, all dues are sent to VWPS and 2/3 is returned to our chapter. Please use the form below to join as a new member. Members who have renewed or joined recently will renew dues in Oct.

Prince William Wildflower Society  
A CHAPTER OF THE  
Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership and fiscal year is Nov. 1 – Oct. 31 and dues are renewable by Oct. 15 **each year**. Dues submitted during September and October will apply toward membership for the coming full membership & fiscal year.

Please check membership category:

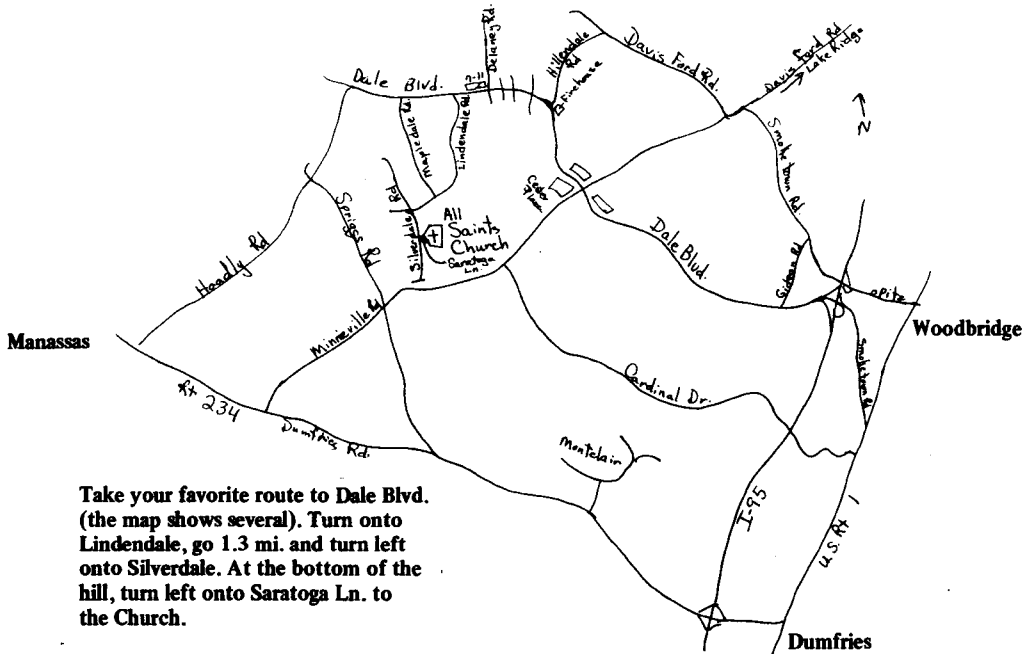
Student/Senior 5.00  Individual 7.50  Family 10.00  Patron 20.00  Associate (group) 25.

Gift Membership. Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Greeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to V.W.P.S. and mail to: Barbara McAleer, Membership Chairman, 5606 North 32 St., Arlington, Va. 22207

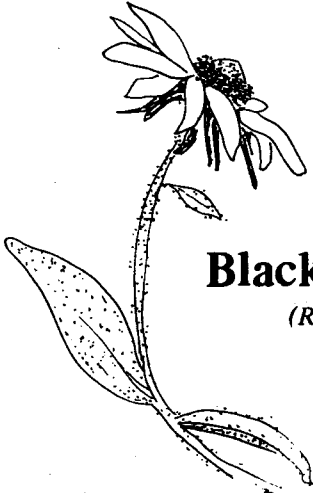
Use this map to get yourself to the July 18th Meeting



Take your favorite route to Dale Blvd.  
(the map shows several). Turn onto  
Lindendale, go 1.3 mi. and turn left  
onto Silverdale. At the bottom of the  
hill, turn left onto Saratoga Ln. to  
the Church.



**PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY**  
A CHAPTER OF THE  
**Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society**  
P. O. BOX 462, MANASSAS, VA 22110



## Black-eyed Susan

(*Rudbeckia hirta*)

**JULY MEETING: MONDAY, 18th 7:30 PM**  
**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, DALE CITY**