

MAY-JUNE 1983

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

MAY MEETING

WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

Wednesday, May 18 7:30 P.M. Bethel Church, Plantation Ln. & Sudley Rd., Manassas

Al Studholme, a director of the V.W.P.S. who has spent many years photographing wildflowers, will present a program on wildflower photography at our May 18th meeting. The program will continue with field tips during our walk at Conway Robinson Memorial Forest at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 22 with Al leading the walk.

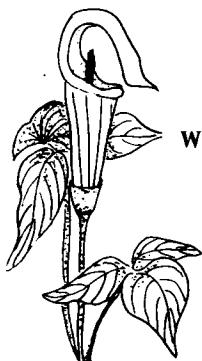
Al is a retired U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service naturalist. His current duties as a volunteer naturalist with the Fairfax County Park Authority include leading wildflower walks, conducting seminars on ecology for park staff members, and helping to design and layout trails in Fairfax parks.

PLANT RESCUES

Some plants have been rescued from Fern Brook and from two Prince William County Parks.

Permission has been obtained from the City of Manassas to rescue at the new Stonewall Park.

Other rescues will be scheduled this spring and summer. If you haven't already signed up for rescues, but would like to participate, call Marie Davis, 361-1626.



WILDFLOWER-OF-THE-MONTH

Catch Jack's "sermon"
on page 3.

He is taking all the photographs for a book called "City Wildflowers" which he plans to publish. The wildflowers, ones you can see within 20 miles of any northeastern U.S. city, are photographed "as you see them," using only natural light. Al sometimes waits up to two hours until conditions are perfect for photographing a plant.

Even if you aren't especially interested in photography, come just to learn more about native plants from this very talented man. Al is also an edible wild plant specialist and an expert wine maker.

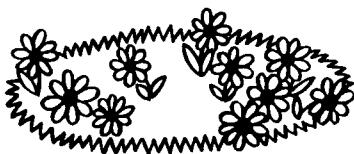
For our next meeting in July we will go back to our 3rd Monday meeting night; however, the meeting place will be changed to the Dale City area. Details in next newsletter.

CONSERVATION FOLDER

After several months work and 3 or 4 revisions, our wildflower conservation folder has been printed and is enclosed with this newsletter. Please read the folder and the plant lists carefully. Become familiar with any plants you don't already recognize. Conservation is a very important part of what we're all about. Please take the material to heart — we must serve as good examples to others.

If you know of rare and uncommon plants which are not on the list, let Elaine Haug know. We will be updating the list and including other plants as we verify their location in the counties our chapter serves.

Please help distribute the folders. Call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431, for more copies for friends and neighbors, for members of organizations you belong to, or to put on display racks in local parks, etc.



PLANT SALE — HUGE SUCCESS

Participation by an impressive number of members resulted in a very successful plant sale for our chapter. We took in around \$1,050.00, and the Wildflower Society received a lot of positive exposure in the community.

Chairman Marie Davis did a superb job of organizing, coordinating, and finding plants. Committee members Joyce Andrew, Kay Smallwood, Nancy Gray and Elaine Haug contributed many good ideas and hours of work getting plants ready for the sale. All deserve a big THANK YOU! as do the following who:

Shared plants from their gardens:

Carlton Harris, Lois Smith, Mary Lekander, Alice Johnson and Frances Lourer.

Furnished potted plants:

Duane York, Joyce Andrew, Ana Sapp, Marie Davis, Nancy Arrington, Nicky Staunton, Rosemary Enright, Don Coulter, Jeannette Garrison, Thalia Roland, Francis Louer, Ester Jewett, Maggie Deola, Jackie Ralya and Holly Green.

Participated in potting, labeling & pricing workshops:

Barbara Marapoti, Joyce Andrew, Jeanne Fowler, Pauline Messier, Kay Smallwood, Elaine Haug, Marie Davis.

Frances Lourer

Awards



In case you missed the article and pictures in the **Post**, the V.W.P.S. was chosen one of the metropolitan area's 10 recipients of the volunteer of the year award. Some 300 members (including our chapter) spent over 8,000 hours and drove over 12,000 miles in their volunteer work in 1982. The Society anticipates formation of chapters in the Roanoke, Richmond, Northern Neck, and Virginia Beach areas in 1983.

Our own chapter has received a certificate of appreciation from the Virginia Forestry Service for the work we've done at C.R.M.F. The award was presented at our last meeting by Tom Davidson, Chief Prince William Country Forest Warden.

Worked at the sale:

Francis Louer, Ester Jewett, Mary LeKander, Alice Lycan, Barbara Marapoti, Jeanne Folwer, Pauline Messier, Nancy Gray, Rosemary Enright, Don Coulter, Carlton Harris, Nicky Staunton, Blair Christolon, Jeannette Garrison, Sharon Jones, Tom & Elaine Carrig, Pat Dunlop, Elaine Haug, Joyce Andrew, Irma Stillman and Jean Morgan. *Judy S.*

Jean Morgan furnished around 400 pots; Jean Chitren helped set up for the sale; and Duane York spent an afternoon transporting plants to Dale City. Nancy Gray, Finance Chairman, organized the \$ aspects of the sale. Kay Smallwood contacted members to work at the sale, Joyce Andrew prepared plant labels, Marie Davis researched and typed the cultivation sheet, and Nancy Arrington prepared the sale flyer. Sharon Jones took the photographs used in the local newspapers.

Again, thanks to everyone who participated in any way in making the plant sale a tremendous success. If we've overlooked anyone, please let us know so you can be thanked properly.

With an eye to the future — save pots, flats, etc. for next year. Also, seed can be started this summer for sale-size plants next spring. If you divide wildflower perennials in the fall, put some aside for next spring's sale.

VIRGINIA WILDFLOWER BOOK

Wildflowers of Tidewater Virginia by Oscar W. Gup-ton and Fred C. Swope has been published by the University Press of Virginia. The book is identical in size and format to their **Trees and Shrubs of Virginia** and **Wildflowers of the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains**.

Full-color photos of 200 wildflowers are grouped by color with non-technical descriptions, flowering time, and habitat. The hard-cover is water and dirt resistant making the book a useful field guide as well as a beautiful "picture book."

The books are \$10.95 plus 4% Va. sales tax, and 1.00 postage each, and can be ordered from:

The University Press of Virginia
Box 3608 University Station
Charlottesville, VA 22903



JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

(*Arisaema triphyllum*)

MARION BLOIS
Ass't. Professor of Biology, NVCC

Unlike many wildflowers which make a beautiful but brief spring appearance, the perennial Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) appears in May and continues to add interest to moist woodlands until late fall. The hooded "flower" which resembles a pulpit (a spathe) has a "Jack" (a spadix) standing in the center as if delivering a sermon. Perhaps he's preaching preservation — advising all visitors to protect our wildflowers, and not to pick, dig, step on, or otherwise disturb nature's beauty.

POLLINATORS HAVE A ROUGH TIME

The actual flowers of the Jack are nowhere to be seen by a casual viewer or even a potential pollinator. The minute yellow-green flowers are in the chamber beneath. The hooded spathe is either maroon or green with white stripes. If you examine the spathe closely you will notice an oily film on its surface. It will squeak when rubbed between your fingers. This oily surface will quickly send potential pollinators such as gnats and flies sliding into the interior chamber. Once inside the chamber, if there are mature male flowers on the spadix, the surprised intruder will be dusted with pollen as he attempts to escape. Once the not-too-bright insect does escape, he'll likely try another Jack and experience another slippery trip into a chamber perhaps with mature female flowers, and hopefully pollination will be accomplished as he once again attempts to escape. If a Jack has both male and female flowers, as some do, the male flowers will be located on the spadix above the female flowers and will mature before the female flowers, usually preventing self-pollination. The result of the pollinators' elaborate ordeal is a cluster of lovely red berries by July.

PLANT IS POISONOUS

Jack's berries appear very tempting to a wild-food enthusiast, but **BEWARE!** All vegetative parts of the plant including the well-developed rootstock or corm,

as well as the berries, contain crystals of calcium oxalate. This will cause a deep burning sensation if one nibbles on a raw corm or berry.

One other common name for this plant is "memory root" based on the now less common practice of school boys (and probably girls too!) tricking each other into a bite of a corm which resembles a turnip. The unwary "victim" will not soon forget the experience. With boiling or drying, both the starchy corm and berries can be eaten. Both were popular with various Indian tribes. Unfortunately, the Jacks are not common enough in our area for gathering.

MORE COMMON NAMES

Other common names for Jack are based on either the use of the corm as a "turnip" type vegetable and/or the intense burning produced by raw parts. Names include Indian turnip, marsh turnip, swamp turnip, wild turnip, dragon turnip, pepper root, wild pepper, and devil's ear.

BOTANICAL BASICS

The three leaflets of the handsome Jack account for its species name of *Arisaema triphyllum*. The genus name of *Arisaema*, meaning blood arum, could refer to the maroon hoods or to the blistering effect of the oxalate crystals in the corms and berries. Jack belongs to the Araceae or Arum family. Arum comes from an Arabian word for fire referring to the calcium oxalate crystals also present in other members of this family. Skunk cabbage and green dragon are close wild relatives growing in our area. The vodoo lily, calla lily, dieffenbachia, and philodendron are cultivated relatives. Other members of the family are primarily tropical.

MEDICINAL USES

In addition to edible uses of Jacks, there are a number of medicinal uses. The corms have been grated, boiled in milk, and used to treat coughs and tuberculosis. Other uses of the corm are supposed remedies for stomach gas, asthma, and rheumatism. Other plant parts have been used as an expectorant, and to increase urine, as well as a skin irritant to cause blistering.

Jacks have one or two three-parted leaves. Younger plants usually have only one leaf and often staminate flowers only. More established plants have two leaves and often either pistillate flowers only or a mixture of staminate and pistillate flowers. Height can vary from 9-10" up to 30" or more.

CONSERVATION

Jack-in-the-pulpit is on our Wildflower II conserva-

continued on page 4

tion list meaning it can be collected for educational purposes, taking only one plant from a stand of at least two dozen. As with other native perennials, Jacks take years to become established. Please help conserve this lovely, stately spring wildflower.

PROPAGATION & CULTIVATION

Nancy Arrington

In the poll of wildflower gardeners mentioned in the last newsletter, Jack-in-the-pulpit was the second favorite wildflower after bloodroot. In our own "favorite wildflower" contest, Jack took third place behind Virginia bluebells and pink lady's-slippers.

Jack-in-the-pulpit is a handsome plant with many uses in the wildflower garden. When planted among other shade and moisture loving wildflowers it will fill in spots left by the plants which disappear soon after blooming. It is very much at home among ferns and is especially good with maidenhair fern. They can be planted in small colonies, or a single Jack will be a bold accent in any woodland garden.

Plant Jacks in humus-rich, moderately acid soil. Spring moisture is necessary, but dry soil will be tolerated later in the season as long as humus content is high. They will prosper in light to dense shade.

Jacks self-sow readily. The bright red seed pod can be picked in the fall. Clean off the skin and pulp, soaking in water helps. The clean seed can be planted outdoors in the fall for spring germination or stored in damp spagnum moss in the refrigerator. Seed started indoors in the spring will germinate in 3-4 weeks; germination percentage is very high.

Transplanting is best done in fall when the plant is dormant; but Jacks, especially small ones, transplant well at any time.

Jack-in-the-pulpit is a hardy, easily grown wildflower — no wildflower garden is complete without at least one.



As wildflowers fade, THINK SEEDS! Seed pods form after flowers disappear and will be ripe usually in one to two months. Plants must be watched carefully so seed can be collected at just the right time which is when it is ripe (pod will begin to dry out and turn brown) but before pods open and the seeds fall out or the ants carry them off.

PLANTS TO BE VERIFIED

Chapter members attending the Herbarium Workshop were Marie Davis, Elaine Haug, Blythe Salamonowicz, John Swaby, and Duane York. Dr. Bradley has given us a list of over 200 plants which he believes are in the county, but whose locations have not been verified. Maggie Deola is typing the list and copies will be available for members of the Heritage Committee and anyone else who would like to help verify locations. The plants will then be pressed and given to Dr. Bradley, thereby updating Prince William County's flora in the **Atlas of the Virginia Flora**.

Call Elaine, 670-2347, if you'd like a copy of the list.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR V.W.P.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee for the Society (State not Chapter) will present a slate of candidates at the Society's annual meeting, Oct. 10, 1983. However, the by-laws provide that Society members may make additional nominations under the following conditions: "A Director of the Board shall be a Virginia member of the Society or a member actively engaged in the conservation of Virginia's native plants. . . . Any resident member of the Society is eligible to be nominated . . . by a petition signed by no fewer than fifteen (15) members of the Society and, once consent of the nominee has been obtained, filed with the Nominating Committee not less than forty-five (45) days before the scheduled date of the annual meeting. A slate of nominees shall be included on a ballot sent to each member concurrent with notice of the day, time and place of the annual meeting." Additional nominations to the Nominating Committee (non-board member only) " . . . may be made by the Society membership from the floor at the annual meeting, provided that such nominees have given consent to their nomination."

This year the offices to be filled for three-year terms are: Recording Secretary; 1 Member-At-Large; Chairmen of Committees for Budget and Finance, Education, and Membership; 2 members of the Nominating Committee (1 Board Member, 1 non-Board member; and, for a one-year term to complete an unexpired term, the Chairman of the Conservation Committee.

Petitions may be filed with Ray Heller, Chairman, Nominating Committee, 6610 Mulroy St., McLean, VA 22101. For additional information call Ray at (703) 790-9236.



MAY 14 – WALK
MAY 21 – WORK
MAY 22 – WALK

Conway Robinson Memorial Forest has at least three wildflower species not found in other parks and public wildflower areas in the county. You'll see two of them if you attend the walks scheduled Saturday, May 14 at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday May 22 at 1:00 p.m. Our May 22nd walk will be led by Al

Studholme who will continue his photography program with first-hand opportunities to photograph the forest's lovely spring wildflowers.

Now that visitors are beginning to use the park more in the spirit for which it was intended, we need to keep it clean and looking good. A work day is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday May 21. We do need your help – wear working shoes and gloves, bring clippers or other small tools, and call Jean Chitren, 221-4489, if you can bring a lawnmower.

Rain cancelled our first two walks, but the rescheduled walk on May 1, led by Joe Kemper, was attended by around 45 people. Marion Blois has taken both her college wildflower class and her Smithsonian class there.

Elaine Haug gave a wildflower slide program for the Bradley Forest Homemakers Club on May 3.

Blair Christolon, our Librarian, has been selected for listing in Who's Who of American Women 1983-84.

Marion Blois has just finished teaching a wildflower class at the Smithsonian, and is scheduled to present a paper on development of the Campus Nature Trail at the Virginia Junior Academy of Science annual meeting in May.

NAMES in the NEWS

A WORD ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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



EDUCATION

As part of our public education program, the following books have been ordered and will be presented in May:

Rare and Endangered Plant Species in Virginia by Duncan M. Porter and the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society's **Native Plant Propagation Handbook** for each Prince William County library.

Wildflowers of Tidewater Virginia for NVCC's Manassas Campus library.

Copies of the first two books will be added to our chapter library. Centennial Garden Club is also donating a wildflower book to Central library from a list of suggested titles provided by our chapter.

SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to Mrs. Elvere C. Cox for including Wildflower Society news in her "In and Around Manassas" column in the **Journal Messenger**. We have received lots of publicity in the past year as a result of her efforts.

VOLUNTEER QUESTIONNAIRE

It isn't too late to fill out the volunteer questionnaire you received with your last newsletter. Very few have been returned, and we do need the information to update our committee lists. So please return it and save the telephone committee some time.

Also remember to keep volunteer hours and mileage records. Both forms will be available at our May 18 meeting.

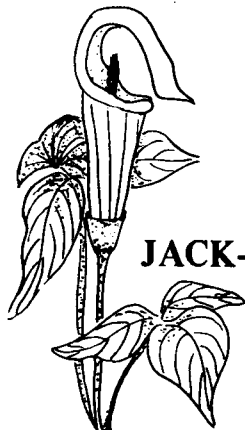
"THE MEADOWS"

Members of our chapter will be asked to help with a planting project at "The Meadows", a V.W.P.S. repository site, near The Plains in Fauquier County. Call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431, if you can help. A Saturday in May will likely be chosen for the work.

Call a friend or fellow-member to come to the meeting — check your directory for someone you can carpool with.



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



JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

(*Arisaema triphyllum*)

MAY MEETING — WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 7:30 P.M., BETHEL CHURCH, MANASSAS