

WILD NEWS

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

JULY MEETING

Seasonal Interest with Native Plants

MONDAY, JULY 21, 7:30 p.m., BETHEL CHURCH

Cole Burrell, Curator of Fern Valley, U.S. National Arboretum, will present a program on native plants in the home landscape at our July meeting. Cole's slide presentation will demonstrate how the flowers, foliage, and fruit of native plants will add interest to the garden from early spring into late fall.

As Curator of Fern Valley, Cole works daily with native plants and is especially interested in promoting and propagating beautiful, hardy plants suitable for cultivation. Cole is knowledgeable about native ferns and shrubs as well as wildflowers and his program will be especially interesting to anyone establishing native plants in home or public landscapes.



Landscaping Conference

The third annual Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants will be held at Cullowhee, N.C., August 7, 8, & 9. Call Elaine Haug for more info.

Wildflower Course

Marion Blois is teaching "Summer Wildflowers" at NVCC's Manassas Campus again this summer. The four-week course consists of lectures on Wed. nights July 16 through August 6, and field trips for Saturdays, July 19, 26, and August 2.

For further info, call Marion at 368-0184, ext. 210.

Summer Wildflower Walk

A special invitation is extended to PWWS members to participate in Marion Blois' summer wildflower field trip to Big Meadows on the Skyline Drive, Saturday, August 2, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For final details, exact time, etc., call Marion, 361-1450.

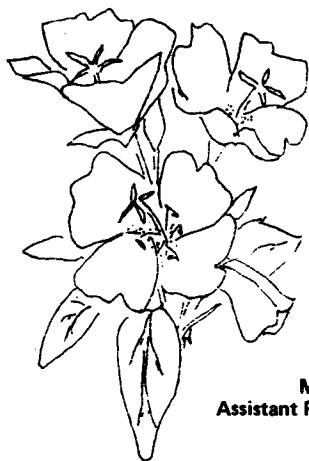
Fall Foliage Walks

Plan ahead! Mark your calendar for Jean Chitren's walks at Conway Robinson Memorial Forest: Sunday, October 5 at 1:00 p.m., and Saturday, October 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Elaine Haug will lead a walk at Leesylvania State Park on Saturday or Sunday, October 18th or 19th. Definite date and details in next newsletter.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be our Chapter Annual Meeting scheduled for September. Plans include a picnic at Frances and Phil Louer's near Haymarket, a walk to some nearby wildflower spot, and the business meeting. Members will receive notice of the meeting in August.



Evening Primroses & Sundrops

Oenothera

MARION BLOIS
Assistant Professor, Biology, NVCC

The genus *Oenothera* in the family Onograceae brings us much beauty and joy this time of year. From late June into September these bright yellow flowers adorn our meadows and roadsides, and even waste areas. In the Northern Virginia area there are six species of this genus whose name is based on a name assigned to a member of this group by the ancient Greek naturalist Theophrastus. Three species open only after dusk and are called "evening primroses" though they are not true primroses. The three are *O. biennis* (common evening primrose), *O. laciniata* (cut-leaved evening primrose), and *O. speciosa* (white evening primrose). The latter two species were not documented in the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora*, but hopefully will be in the new edition.

Sundrops open during the day and are a bright, sunny yellow. Three species in our area are *O. fruticosa* (narrow-leaved sundrops), *O. perennis* (perennial sundrops), and *O. pilosella* (meadow sundrops). The last species is not recorded in Prince William County.

WILD NEWS

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FROM THE 

PRESIDENT

Elaine Haug

REMINDERS:

The VWPS Annual Meeting will be held Sat. and Sun., Sept. 20 & 21, at Mountain Lake near Blacksburg. Nicki Staunton is Auction Chairman for our chapter, and will be calling members for auction items. Please call her if you have an item to donate. Ideas from past auctions: plant collections, seed collections, wildflower related needlework, artwork.

The Photo Contest deadline is August 30. Call me (670-2347) for more info or entry forms.

Collect wildflower seed for the seed exchange at our chapter Annual Meeting. If you have questions about what and when to collect, call Nancy Arrington (368-8431).

THANKS:

to Janine Chrysler who has been watering and weeding the wildflower garden at Prince William Forest Park.

The flowers of this genus are all quite similar in structure with a four-merous (parts in fours) structure. The four-spurred corolla tube arises above an inferior ovary with a four-spurred calyx tube which protrudes above this ovary. The calyx spurs may be reflexed in many species. The stigma has four branches that form a cross. The eight stamens are yellow except in *O. fruticosa* where they are orange. The ribbed fruit capsule is often used as the final diagnostic characteristic since species hybridize resulting in taxonomic treatment that is complex at best and "hopelessly confused" at worst!

The leaves of this genus are alternate and usually linear or oblanceolate except they are divided in *O. laciniata*. Most plants of these species range in height from one to five feet and have strong stems. The solitary flowers are borne in a terminal position often with reduced upper leaves or bracts under the inflorescence.

The evening primroses open at dusk and usually close during the day. *O. biennis* (biennial) gives off

Continued next page

a strong lemon fragrance to attract sphinx moths as pollinators. The sundrops are less fragrant and are pollinated by bees and butterflies.

The common primrose (*O. biennis*) is the only species of this genus with food or herbal use. It was imported to Europe in the 1600's where it was used as a root food and the young leaves as salad greens. This species is a favorite of Japanese beetles and will attract the pests away from other plants in the garden.

These bright, attractive plants are found in dry, sandy soil from Canada to Florida. The sunny flowers bring beauty and interest to many open habitats and wildflower gardens. Enjoy the beauty of both groups this summer from early morning until after dark.

Park Wildflower Garden

JANINE CHRYSLER

A number of plants are now blooming in the Wildflower Garden in Prince William Forest Park, located near the Nature Center.

Purple bergamot stands out the most with its large red-purple flowers and purplish bracts atop plants nearly 5' tall. Yarrow, with its fern-like leaves and white flower clusters can be seen on both sides of the bergamot. Shrubby St. Johnswort is doing very well, and the tall meadow rue is also in bloom. These are just a few of the many varieties of wildflowers that are native to the park and can be seen in our garden.

Photography Class

"Introduction to Nature Photography" will be presented by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Sunday, August 10, at 2:00 p.m., at Potomac Overlook Regional Park Nature Center.

The program is free, but reservations are required, 528-5406. Potomac Overlook Park is located at the end of Marcey Rd., off Military Rd. in Arlington.

Workshop Well Attended

Piedmont Chapter's Wildflower Identification Workshop, taught by Marion Blois, was attended by 27 persons, including some PWWS members. The workshop was held at Blandy Experimental Farm on June 28.

Marion is leading three tours at the Arboretum's Fern Valley and teaching a summer wildflower class as part of the Smithsonian's Resident Associate Program.

Master Gardener

PWWS member Pauline Messier recently completed the Prince William Cooperative Extension Service's Master Gardening Program. The course consisted of 50 hours of lectures in turf, fruit, landscaping, pest control, and other areas of horticulture. Pauline and her fellow graduates are available to answer questions related to horticulture and gardening. Call 335-6288, Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

A Chapter of The Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

Membership Application

___NEW ___RENEWAL

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone(s): Home () _____ Work () _____

Membership Dues:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 or over) \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (groups) \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor \$125.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$250.00 |

I wish to participate in the following:

- ___ Promotion of legislation aimed at plant protection
- ___ Development of programs, displays, literature
- ___ Producing member publications ___ Photography
- ___ Stewardship of wildflower plantings/preserves
- ___ Native plant landscaping ___ Botanical surveys
- ___ Public speaking ___ Youth programs ___ Art
- ___ Plant rescue ___ Typing ___ Telephoning
- ___ Other _____

Make check payable to V.W.P.S. and mail to :

Tom & Elaine Carrig, Membership Co-Chairmen
13305 Kahns Rd., Manassas, VA 22111

Membership and fiscal year is Nov. 1 through Oct. 31 and dues are renewable by Oct. 15 EACH YEAR.

NATIVES FOR THE GARDEN

NANCY ARRINGTON
Propagation Chairman



AMERICAN BELLFLOWER

The color blue is highly prized by gardeners because of its rarity, and because it combines so well with most other colors in the garden. Blue is especially welcome for the cool note it adds to the warm yellows and reds in the summer garden.

American bellflower (*Campanula americana*) is a beautiful blue native for the summer garden. Though a member of the bluebell family and related to garden campanulas (pronounced kam-pan'-u-la) the flowers are not bell-shaped. Instead, numerous flat, five-petaled flowers adorn the top 12-18" of 3-6' stems. Plants may be single-stemmed, but ones growing in ideal conditions will have several blooming spikes at different heights with flowers opening from early July into August.

Also called tall bellflower, American bellflower grows naturally in the rich, moist soil of thickets

and woods throughout most of the northeastern, central, and southeastern United States. It grows in the western half of Virginia and in a few coastal counties.

Ideal garden conditions include rich, moist, well-drained soil and partial shade. Plants will grow in full sun as long as the soil is kept constantly moist. American bellflower is a stately accent plant for the summer border, adding interest to the round shapes of daisies, sunflowers, and coneflowers. It is especially pretty with the golds and yellows of these flowers and early goldenrods. A striking red and blue combination can be achieved by planting the bellflower with bee balm and cardinal flower in a very moist spot.

American bellflower is a biennial and must be started from seed each year to assure blooming plants for the following year. It is easily propagated from seed sown at almost any time during the year. A handsome rosette of basal leaves forms the first year and plants bloom the second year. Plants self-sow readily under favorable growing conditions but never become a nuisance.

Seed of this species and many more desirable natives will be available at our Annual Meeting as part of our seed exchange.

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Evening Primrose

Oenothera biennis

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