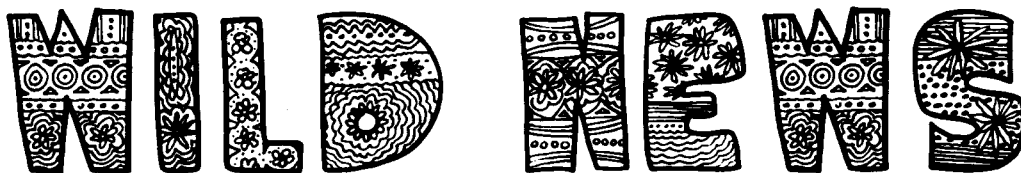


MARCH-APRIL 1986



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

## MARCH MEETING

# NATURAL PLANT DYES

MONDAY, MAR. 17 7:30 PM BETHEL CHURCH  
Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas

Early colonists and the American Indians brightened their lives with dyes made from native plants because other materials were unknown or scarce and very expensive. With the revival of many crafts during the past few years, natural dyes are again being used for yarn, baskets, and other items.

Rita Brown, a professional weaver, has been using natural plant dyes for the past 10 years or so. She has been a weaver for 20 years and gives classes from her

studio in Fredericksburg. Rita has invited members and guests to bring any items they may have which were dyed with native plant parts for a small "show and tell" segment of the program.

Get your spring off to an interesting and educational start by coming to the March meeting. Bring any friends or neighbors who are interested in this particular program or in any of our activities.

Wildflower Week will be celebrated throughout Virginia April 19-27. See page 3 for Walks, Garden Tours and other Prince William Chapter events.

## Conservation Guidelines

VWPS's Wildflower Conservation Guidelines were published in the latest issue of the Bulletin. All members are encouraged to read the guidelines, ask questions, make comments and suggestions NOW before they're published in final form.

Marion Blois, our chapter Conservation Chairperson, served on the committee which developed the guidelines. She will be happy to answer questions or listen to any comments, compliments, or complaints you might have. Give her a call at 361-1450 (H) or 368-0184 (W).

This is your  
**LAST CHANCE TO RENEW**

○ your membership if there's a red dot here and one beside your mailing label. Use form on page 9.

## PLANT SALE

Our plant sale will be May 10, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., in the parking lot (most likely in the shade) at Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Ln. and Sudley Road, Manassas.

This is the Chapter's main fund raising project and has been very successful the past three years. We offer hardy, easily-cultivated wildflowers, ferns, small native trees and shrubs. Plants are either grown from seed by propagation committee members or shared from members' gardens. We do not sell any wild collected plants.

Roxetta Wyer is chairman of the plant sale again this year and has outlined areas she needs help with in the Plant Sale section of the Committee Reports. She would like to hear from anyone who can help in any way, large or small.

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.

*Please note date change*

**Bethel Church**

**Program: Spring Wildflowers**

## Garden Program & Brochure

Marie Davis and Nancy Arrington have prepared a "Woodland Garden" slide program which they will present to Manassas and Countryside Garden Clubs in March. The program will also be held during Wildflower Week on Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m., at Bethel Lutheran Church. This free program will be open to the public.

The chapter is producing a brochure, "Wildflowers for the Woodland Garden", which will be distributed during the programs and will be available as a hand-out at other times. If you'd like a copy send a stamped, self-addressed #10 (business size) envelope to Nancy Arrington, P.O. Box 462, Manassas, VA 22110.

## Bluebell Week at Bull Run

This year the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is celebrating Bluebell Week at Bull Run Regional Park April 13-20. Walks are scheduled each Sunday at 2:00 p.m. A self-guided tour pamphlet will be available to visitors who are encouraged to see the bluebells on their own during the week. Groups can schedule guided tours by calling 528-5406.

## Return Library Books

Chapter Librarian, Nicky Staunton, would like all books returned to the library as soon as possible so she can make a complete list of what we have. Books can be checked out again immediately if you haven't finished with them. If you can't bring the books to the March meeting, call Nicky, 368-9803 (H) or 368-3943 (W) and tell her what you have.

## Calendars Available

Last chance to buy your 1986 Endangered Wildflower Calendar at \$6.95. The price will surely go up when it becomes a collector's item! Call Elaine Haug, 670-2347.

## WILD NEWS

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Editor: Nancy Arrington 368-8431 Production: Janine Chrysler 221-5084

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Elaine Haug 670-2347 Vice president: Nicky Staunton 368-9803

Secretary: Marie Davis 361-1626 Treasurer: Roxetta Wyer 361-8615

FROM THE 

## PRESIDENT

Elaine Haug

Elsewhere in this newsletter there are messages from each of our committee chairpersons briefly stating their goals and activities for the coming year and asking for your help. We want to:

1. Let you know about the many different activities our chapter members are involved in, and
2. Give you an opportunity to decide where your interests and talents fit in.

This does not mean that you have to be active to be a "good" member of the Society. Some of you joined because you believe in what we're doing and enjoy getting the newsletters and VWPS's Bulletin, but are not able to attend meetings, or participate in rescues, wildflower walks, plant sales, and other activities. You are an important part of our group, and we appreciate your support very much.

On the other hand, we don't want anybody to feel unwelcome, ignored, left out, or not needed. Our chapter is small and we are proud of what we have accomplished, but with participation from more members we can accomplish so much more.

I hope each of you will read through the committee reports and call the chairperson if you can help. Member who checked specific areas of interest on their membership application will receive a phone call from the chairperson in charge of that area.

If you have suggestions for trips, activities, or projects that we're not currently involved in, we'd like to know about them. If you have complaints or disappointments about any areas of the Society we want to be aware of those also. Just communicate your ideas and suggestions to the person who calls you, or call me with them at 670-2347.

I would also like to remind anyone who hasn't renewed his/her membership that this is your **absolute, final, last chance**. We will include an updated Membership Directory with the May-June newsletter, and we don't want you to be left out.

# WILDFLOWER WEEK

Wildflower Week will be celebrated throughout Virginia April 19th through the 27th. Members will receive a special mailing from VWPS listing events in all areas of the State. We've scheduled some activities which may not be in the VWPS folder, and we also want to call your attention to events sponsored by neighboring chapters. All are free and open to the public unless noted.



**WILDFLOWER WALKS** are scheduled throughout the week. Plan to get out and enjoy the colorful variety of spring wildflowers blooming along area woodland trails.

**Saturday, April 19, 1:00 p.m.** Jean Chitren will lead a Wildflower and Tree Walk at Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, Rts. 29-211, one mile east of Gainesville. Meet Jean (221-4489) at the picnic shelter near the entrance to the forest.

**Saturday, April 19, 2:00 p.m.** Duane York will lead a walk at Prince William Forest Park, Triangle. Meet Duane (670-4451) at the Nature Center.

**Thursday, April 24, 12:00 noon** Marion Blois will lead a walk along NVCC's Nature Trail, Sudley Road, Manassas. Call 368-0184, ext. 210 for info.

**Sunday, April 27, 1:00 p.m.** Jean Chitren will lead a second walk at Conway Robinson.

**Sunday, April 27** Piedmont Chapter is sponsoring a Trillium Walk at Linden. Call Holley Green for more information, 347-7663.

**WILDFLOWER GARDENS** will be open and a wildflower slide program will give gardeners and potential gardeners ideas and inspiration for growing wildflowers.

**Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.** Duane York and Janine Chrysler will host a special Open House at our Wildflower Garden at Prince William Forest Park. The all-season garden is open to the public year-round. Call Duane for info, 670-4451.

**Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.** Marie Davis's garden at 7395 Roxbury Ave., Manassas is planted almost entirely with native plants. 20-30 species will be blooming with an additional 20-30 "possible bloomers."

Holley Green's garden near Warrenton contains a woodland pool surrounded by wildflowers, hundreds of spring bulbs, and many perennials. Directions: Rts. 29-211 toward Warrenton, left on Rt. 215 (Vint Hill Rd.), right on Rt. 600, left on Rt. 676, left on Rt. 1311, second driveway on right. 347-7663.

Potowmack Chapter is sponsoring a tour of four gardens displaying wildflowers in different landscape settings and in various stages of development. Tour is from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and leaves from Green Spring Park near Annandale. Call the Park, 642-5174, for information and reservations. Fee is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

**Sunday, April 20, 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.** Davis and Green gardens will be open.

**Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.** Marie Davis and Nancy Arrington will present a slide program on Wildflowers for the Woodland Garden at Behtel Lutheran Church, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas. Call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431, for info.



## Long Range Planning Committee

Marion Blois and Nicky Staunton are members of the VWPS Long Range Planning Committee. Talk to either of them about ideas, suggestions, or visions for the future of the Wildflower Society.

## Members Attend Symposium

Chapter members attending the "Natives Preferred" symposium include Nancy Arrington, Marion Blois, Marie Davis, Claudia Deahl, and Sandi Mueller.

## Treasurer Resigns

Due to a heavy workload and other commitments, Jean Chitren has resigned as treasurer. Roxetta Wyer will take over until a new treasurer is elected at our Annual Meeting. Jean will continue to be involved as Landscape Chair I at Conway Robinson Memorial Forest.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

Please look through our Chapter's areas of activities and volunteer your help!

## SURVEY

I am looking for persons interested in finding and pressing plants for county records. We have copies of Plants to be Discovered in Prince William County.

Elaine Haug, 670-2347

## EDUCATION

During the coming year our focus will be toward conservation of native plants, both rare and familiar.

### Youth:

- a. Introduction to native plants by talks and walks.
- b. Encouragement of on-site trail development at schools and homes
- c. Place appropriate publications in school science libraries and send our newsletter to persons responsible for Botany to share with students.

### Public at large:

- a. Display equipment: develop a new system and find new locations for displays
- b. Roadside planting of native plants in the county
- c. Expand newsletter and publications distribution to individuals, County and School libraries
- d. Supplement sale of native plants with educational and cultivation material.
- e. Search for locations of possible public garden development, identification of plants there, recruitment of persons to be responsible, guided by, if not done by, Marie Davis and her standards set at Prince William Forest Park.
- f. Public displays of photos, or other information. Pamphlet production and placement.
- g. Further development of chapter film and book libraries and development of slide programs

Nicky Staunton, 368-9803 (H), 368-3943 (W)

## MEMBERSHIP

We need several people to be responsible for keeping a supply of our membership folders in the county libraries, parks, and other places throughout the county.

Tom and Elaine Carrig, 791-5159

## NEWSLETTER, PUBLICATIONS, PUBLICITY

I need:

1. a person to take black and white pictures for publicity
2. someone to write articles and/or news releases and get them to local newspapers and radio stations
3. help with researching and writing a series of hand-outs to include a guide to local parks and natural areas, introduction to wildflower photography, a wildflower identification, and others.

Nancy Arrington, 368-8431 (H), 368-9711 (W)

## LANDSCAPE I C.R.M.F.

I would like to find a person or persons to be responsible for periodically cleaning up the entrance area at Conway Robinson Memorial Forest. This is especially important immediately before our walks.

Jean Chitren, 221-4489

## LANDSCAPE II P.W.F.P. GARDEN

The garden, now in its third year, is becoming well established, and doesn't require as much care as it did in the beginning, but I always need help watering in the summer and fall.

Marie Davis, 361-1626

## CONSERVATION

We will be concerned with conservation issues on the local, state, and national levels. This committee is just now getting organized and I would like help and suggestions from anyone who is interested.

Marion Blois, 361-1450

## PROPAGATION & PLANT SALE

A joint Propagation-Plant Sale committee meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 25, 7:30 p.m., at Roxetta Wyer's, 9125 Peabody St. Please come to this first meeting if you can help with any propagation or plant sale activities — no experience necessary!

Propagation committee needs members to start seeds for next year's sale and/or people who have space and time to care for seedlings until they're big enough to sell.

Nancy Arrington, 368-8431 (H), 368-9711 (W)

Plant Sale committee needs:

1. Plants — pot up any plants you have started or can share from your garden by mid-April
2. Help potting up plants for the sale
3. Help during the sale — (most of these jobs require no experience) help setting up tables, arranging plants for sale, assisting customers, serving as cashiers, and helping with clean-up.

Roxetta Wyer, 361-8615

## RESCUE

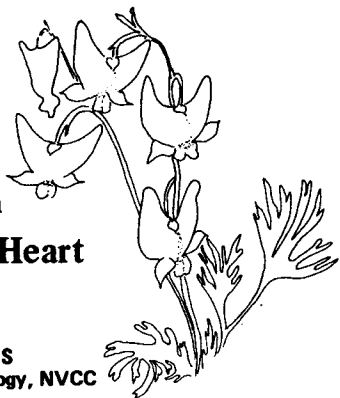
This committee is getting re-organized and needs:

1. Help contacting county officials and developers and getting permission to survey and rescue
2. People to help survey areas and identify plants to be rescued.
3. People to rescue plants and replant them in appropriate locations.

Sandi Mueller, 791-5671

## Dutchman's Breeches, Squirrel Corn & Bleeding Heart

MARION BLOIS  
Assistant Professor, Biology, NVCC



Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, and wild bleeding heart are some of the loveliest and most unusual of our early spring flora. Who can resist smiling when seeing the yellow-tipped white billowing pantaloons of dutchman's breeches or the heart-shaped flowers of squirrel corn and bleeding heart.

Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), squirrel corn (*D. canadensis*), and bleeding heart (*D. exima*) are members of the fumitory family, Fumariaceae. *Dicentra* is derived from Greek for "twice spurred", *cucullaria* means "hood-like", *canadensis*, "Canadian", and *exima*, "choice". The scientific name for dutchman's breeches is descriptive as are some of its other common names such as white hearts, ear drops, soldier's cap, all referring to the flower scape, and staggerweed and colic weed referring to chemical properties of the plant. Squirrel corn's (also known as turkey corn) common and scientific names are perhaps less descriptive, except for other common names of white hearts or sweet hearts that refer to the heart-shape and delicate hyacinth-like fragrance of the flowers. The underground structures or "tubers" vaguely resemble corn kernels but whether or not squirrels or turkeys eat these is debatable.

The flower structure of these three *Dicentra* species is unusual. There are two small, inconspicuous sepals that may be shed after the bud opens. The two small green bracts (modified leaves) on the flowering stem should not be confused with the sepals. The four petals form an unusual corolla. The two outer petals which form hollow spurs are larger than the two inner petals. These spurs, resembling old-fashioned pantaloons, are elongated in dutchman's breeches. They are shorter and more rounded giving the heart shape to the corollas of squirrel corn and bleeding heart. The smaller inner two petals enclose six anthers (two sets of three) and a single stigma. These petals are "hinged" and must be pried apart by pollinators. The corollas

of dutchman's breeches are creamy white tipped in bright yellow, squirrel corn's are a greenish-white but may have a pinkish tinge, and bleeding heart corollas are various shades of pink. In all three species the 6-12" flower stem or scape develops directly from the underground root structure and bears four to ten flowers in a loose graceful raceme arrangement.

Pollination is fascinating in these three species. The sight of a large queen bumblebee hanging onto a dutchman' breeches blossom, prying open the hinged petals to poke her head into each spur to drink nectar from glands found in the top of each spur is an amusing spectacle. The tongue length of *bombus bimaculatus*, the primary pollinator of dutchman's breeches, is the perfect length to drink nectar from the spurs. As the bumblebee is drinking nectar, her body picks up pollen which is transferred to other flowers. The bumblebee will also gather pollen to feed her larvae that will develop in nests in the ground.

Other species of insects including wild and domesticated honey bees and butterflies are known to visit *Dicentra* flowers but are not strong enough to be successful pollinators. These other insects may "cheat" to obtain nectar by chewing holes into the flower spurs.

Dutchman's breeches usually blooms a week or so before squirrel corn in early April with the flowers persisting for 2½-3 weeks. Bleeding heart begins blooming in late April or early May and continues to bloom sparsely through the summer. The fruit that rapidly forms after pollination is a slender ½-¾" capsule containing up to 20 small shiny round black seeds. The seeds have a prominent fleshy whitish "crest" called an elaiosome which attracts ants once the capsule splits open releasing the seeds onto the forest floor. The ants carry the seeds to their nests, chew off the elaiosomes, but leave the seeds intact. Thus, the seeds are dispersed away from the parent plants and away from rodents and other seed eaters. (This phenomenon, known as "myrmecochory", was discussed in an earlier newsletter).

The vegetative structures of these *Dicentras* are distinctive. The delicate, deeply dissected (almost fern-like) 6-10" blue-green leaves are "thrice compounded" and develop directly from the underground storage structures. The foliage of all three species is similar, but the leaves of squirrel corn are paler with a silvery sheen and more deeply dissected than those of dutchman's breeches. When the leaves or flowering scapes are broken, a watery exude is released which along with the underground storage structure, contains alkaloids that can poison cattle.

Continued on page 7

# SPRING CALENDAR

March 16 (Sun.) Signs of Spring Nature Walk, 11:00 a.m., Nature Center, Prince William Forest Park, Triangle. Info: 221-2104.

March 21 (Fri.) Early Spring Wildflower Walk, 1:00 p.m., Fern Valley, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington. Info: (202) 475-4815.

March 21 & 22 (Fri. & Sat.) Intermediate Beekeeping Course, Manassas Campus, NVCC. Info: 221-4489.

March 22 (Sat.) Introduction to Nature Photography, 2:00 p.m., Potomac Overlook Regional Park Nature Center, Arlington. Advance reservations required: 528-5406.

March 29 (Sat.) Breakfast With the Birds, 7:00-9:30 a.m., Potomac Overlook Regional Park. Cost is \$2. Advance reservations required: 528-5406.

March 31 (Mon.) Spring Wildflower Walk, 1:00 p.m., Fern Valley, U. S. National Arboretum, Washington. Info: (202-475-4815.

April 1 (Tues.) Wild Series: Introduction to Spring Wildflowers, 7:00 p.m., Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale. Advance registration required, 642-5173.

April 2 (Wed.) The Story of Hollies, 1:30 p.m., U.S. National Arboretum, Washington. Info: (202) 475-4815.

April 6 (Sun.) Same as above.

April 8 (Tues.) Medicinal Plants, 7:00 p.m., Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale. Cost is \$1.00. Advance registration required, 642-5173.

April 11 (Fri.) Fern Valley Wildflower Walk, 1:00 p.m., U.S. National Arboretum. Info: (202) 475-4815.

April 13 (Sun.) Bluebell Walk, 2:00 p.m., Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville. Info: 631-0550.

April 16 (Wed.) Nature Photography Workshop, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Gulf Branch Nature Center. Info: 558-2340.

————— **APRIL 19–27 WILDFLOWER WEEK** — Members will receive special mailing from VWPS —————

April 20 (Sun.) Bluebell Walk, 2:00 p.m., Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville. Info: 631-0550.

April 20 (Sun.) Annual Fern Valley Day, noon-4:00 p.m., U.S. National Arboretum, Washington. Info: (202) 475-4815.

April 22 (Tues.) Wild Series: Landscaping with Wildflowers, 7:30 p.m., Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale. Cost is \$2. Advance registration required, 642-5173.

April 24-26 (Thurs.-Sat.) 36th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Cost is \$5 per day. Info: write to G.S.M. National Park, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

April 25 (Fri.) Fern Valley Wildflower Walk, 10:00 a.m., U.S. National Arboretum. Info: (202) 475-4815.

May 2 (Fri.) Fern Valley Wildflower Walk, 10:00 a.m., U.S. National Arboretum. Info: (202) 475-4815.

May 3 & 4 (Sat. & Sun.) 4th Annual Azalea Fair, U.S. National Arboretum. Info: (202) 475-4815.

May 7 (Wed.) Birds n' Botany, 9-11:00 a.m., Long Branch Nature Center. Info: 845-7640.

May 9-11 (Fri.-Sun.) Wintergreen Wildflower Symposium. Info: (804) 325-2200.

May 10 (Sat.) PWWS Plant Sale, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Bethel Church Parking Lot, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas. Info: Roxetta Wyer, 361-8615.

May 11 (Sun.) Spring Wildflower Sale, 12 noon—3:00 p.m., Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale. Potowmack Chapter. Info: Anne Webb, 528-6170 or Billy Trump, 960-1476.

May 22 (Thurs.) Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls, WV. Info: Maxine Scarboro, Dept. of Natural Resources, Charlestown, WV 25305.

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the Wildflower Society we can send him/her two complimentary issues of the newsletter. Call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431, or mail to P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110

The underground storage structures of dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn are often called "tubers", but they are not true tubers. The structures serve the same functions as tubers in food storage and asexual reproduction but do not meet the botanical definition of a tuber which is a "swollen tip of a rhizome". "Scaly bulbet-bearing rootstock" is perhaps a more accurate term, but most wildflower books will probably continue to use the term "tuber". As mentioned earlier, squirrel corn's round "tubers" are yellow to pink and may resemble corn. In dutchman's breeches and bleeding heart the tubers are more elongated.

The term "ephmeral spring flora" is quite appropriate when used to describe dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn. The foliage, flowers and fruit disappear almost as quickly as they appear from leaf litter on an often rocky deciduous forest floor. The tasks of photosynthesis (to produce enough food to fuel the next spring's rapid development), flower blooming, pollination, and seed set must be carried out before the leaf canopy develops in the deciduous forest. Bleeding heart foliage will continue to grow through the summer until dry summer weather or frost causes it to go dormant.

Dutchman's breeches has the widest distribution of the three species, occurring from Nova Scotia into North Carolina and west to Nebraska and even along the Columbia River Valley in Oregon and Washington. Squirrel corn is found from Nova Scotia down into the mountains of North Carolina and west to the Mississippi River. The Atlas of the Virginia Flora does not list squirrel corn in Prince William County, but Elaine Haug thinks it probably grows here and would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of a site in the county. Bleeding heart is found only in mountain locations from Nova Scotia into the Carolinas. In the Atlas this species is reported only in Northern Virginia's Loudoun County.

As was mentioned earlier in this article, alkaloids present in the plant parts of *Dicentras* have been known to cause poisoning in cattle. A drug known as "corydalis" made from the root structure was once used as a bitter-tasting tonic, as a diuretic and to treat skin infections and syphilis. Other medicinal uses included extracts of plant parts to treat meniere's syndrome (a malfunction of the inner ear) and muscular tremors. These extracts are no longer used medically.

These lovely wildflowers bring us much joy each spring as we revel in their short-lived burst of floral display. This spring watch for bumblebee queens visit-

ing the creamy pantaloons of dutchman's breeches and the lovely hearts of squirrel corn or bleeding heart. As with all other wildflowers, please help to preserve stands of these fascinating perennials that bring us such a magnificent display for a brief but special time each spring.

## Bleeding Heart, Dutchman's Breeches & Squirrel Corn in The Garden

NANCY ARRINGTON  
Propagaiton Chairman



Bleeding heart, dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn are perfect plants for the woodland garden. Bleeding heart (*Dicentra exima*) really is "choice" and is the most valuable of the three because of its extended blooming period and more permanent foliage.

All three plants need woodland growing conditions: a humus-rich, well-drained soil, adequate moisture, and shade. Many woodland species require an acid soil but these plants prefer a more neutral soil. The soil of most yards will not be suitable for these woodland species, but can be improved by adding generous amounts of compost, well-rotted manure, sphagnum moss or other organic material.

Dutchman's breeches (*D. cucullaria*) and squirrel corn (*D. canadensis*) get the sun and moisture they need in early spring before the trees leaf out. They go dormant soon after blooming and will need shade, but adapt to a somewhat dry summer soil.

Bleeding heart will need extra moisture and filtered to complete shade (direct sun may burn the foliage) to remain attractive throughout the growing season. Properly amended soil will help contain the necessary moisture; plants can be mulched, and supplemental watering may be necessary during dry weather.

A "happy" bleeding heart, after the first burst of spring color, will bloom sparsely through the summer and will most likely reward the gardener with a second blooming period during the cooler, wetter days of fall. The beautiful fern-like foliage will add interest to the woodland garden until frost.

Fall is the preferred planting time for all early-blooming plants. Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn are often available as bulbs and should be planted 1-2" deep in small colonies or drifts 4-6" apart.

Continued on page 8

Bleeding heart plants should be set 2-3' apart (a plant can spread to 3' in diameter) with the top pink eyes about 1' below soil level. In Growing Wildflowers, Marie Sperka recommends dividing plants every 2-3 years because old crowns die as they finish blooming and can choke out new growth.

A light application of bonemeal worked into the soil in spring and again in mid-summer will help bleeding hearts continue to bloom. If your dutchman's breeches are growing well, but not blooming, chances are the soil is too acid; bonemeal will help make the soil more neutral. Plantings of dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn can be covered with a wire mesh and then mulched in the fall to keep rodents away from the bulbs.

All three species can be started from seed but squirrel corn and dutchman's breeches are more often propagated by separation of the bulblets. Bleeding heart is one of the many seed-propagated species covered in Growing and Propagating Wildflowers. Seed should be collected as soon as it is ripe (shiny black with the white, fleshy elaiosome still intact). Sow immediately in a prepared outdoor bed and expect seedlings in the spring. The seed can be stored in damp sphagnum moss in a sealed container and refrigerated until sown. Be sure to either sow or store immediately after collection because dried out seeds may germinate slowly or not at all. Starting seeds outdoors in the fall or storing them in the refrigerator gives them the moist cold period (at least 4 weeks per Phillips) they require for good germination. Stored seed can be started indoors or outdoors in early spring. Bleeding heart will self-sow in the garden and seedlings can be moved as they appear in early spring.

In addition to his thorough propagation information, Phillips discusses "Uses in the Garden and Landscape" for each species. For bleeding heart he recommends: "Try it at the base of a tree, a large rock, or a broad-leaved shrub such as Rhododendron for a pleasing textural contrast. In spring, it blends well with Trillium, Bloodroot, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and Foam-flower . . . with True and False Solomon's Seal and Black Cohosh in the immediate background for accent." He suggests cardinal flower and white wood aster (*A. divaricatus*) for late summer interest, and "in dappled light, combine Bleeding Heart and Green-and-Gold for an exciting effect."

In Pioneering With Wildflowers, the late Senator George D. Aiken recommends dutchman's breeches

and squirrel corn for the shady rock garden, following mother nature's "few simple rules: partial shade, . . . water in springtime, perfect drainage and pockets filled with pulverized stone and leafmold." Among other plants, Aiken also recommends crested iris, bloodroot, columbine, spring beauty, and wild geranium for the shady rock garden.

Closer to home, Marie Davis says one of the prettiest spring combinations in her garden is dutchman's breeches and bleeding heart with mayapple, yellow violets, blue phlox and solomon's seal.

Several cultivated varieties of bleeding heart are available, but they are larger and coarser than our native which may be called "wild", "fringed", "fern-leaved" in catalogs. Be sure to check the botanical name of plants or seeds you are ordering to get what you want.

Gardeners who want to add these or any other native plants to their gardens should never dig plants from the wild. Propagated bleeding heart will be available at our plant sale. Plants are available from several

nurseries that propagate including:

Natural Gardens, 113 Jasper Ln., Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (bleeding heart, catalog 50 cents)

Sunlight Gardens, Inc., Rt. 3, Box 286-B, Loudon, TN 37774 (squirrel corn and bleeding heart, catalog 50 cents)

An extensive list of native plant and seed sources is available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope from VWPS-Orders, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

## Marion Blois Promoted

Congratulations to Marion Blois who has been promoted to Associate Professor of Biology at NVCC, Manassas Campus, effective September 1st.

## Chapter Joins Groups

At its February meeting the Executive Committee voted to join the National Wildflower Research Center, Nature Conservancy (Va. chapter), the New England Wild Flower Society, and the North Carolina Botanical Garden. These four organizations were chosen to show our support for the work they do and for their newsletters and other publications which will be beneficial to our members.

Items of interest from the organizations will be included in our newsletter, and then the newsletters will be kept in a permanent file in our chapter library.



## Scholarship Funds Available

Our chapter budget contains a modest "scholarship fund" to wholly or partially sponsor chapter representatives to educational seminars, conferences, and other meetings. The money can be used for tuition and/or travel expenses. The function should relate to a chapter activity the member is involved in or intends to become involved in, thereby benefiting the entire chapter.

Informal verbal or written requests can be given to any Executive Committee member and will be considered on an individual basis.

## Books Donated to Libraries

Our Chapter Executive Committee voted to donate copies of *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers* by Harry R. Phillips to Central and Potomac Libraries, Manassas and Woodbridge Campuses of NVCC, and to our own chapter library.

## Maryland Native Plant Society

A small group of Marylanders has formed the Maryland Native Plant Society. For information, contact the Society, c/o Scaffidi, 14720 Claude Ln., Silver Spring, MD 20904.

## Virginia Garden Week

Historic Garden Week in Virginia will be April 19-27. A tour information booklet is available for \$1.00 from Historic Garden Week Headquarters, 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219.

## Wildflowers, Birds, Amphibians

Regional Flora (Biol 276) is being offered this spring at NVCC, Manassas Campus. Lectures will be Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:20 p.m., beginning April 1. Instructor Marion Blois has scheduled several Saturday or Sunday field trips so students can get a first-hand look at regional flora during the spring blooming season. There are no prerequisites for this 3-credit course.

NVCC is also offering Field Identification of Birds (Biol 198), a 1-credit course with one lecture on Saturday, April 5, 9:00-11:20 a.m., and five Saturday field trips. Instructor is Cathy Tiene Gleason.

Amphibians and Reptiles (Biol 199 Supervised Study), a 1-credit course consists of lectures Thursdays 5:30-6:20 p.m. and five field trips. Instructor is Jim Monohan. Telephone registration is now in progress, walk-in registration begins March 17, and classes begin March 29. For more information, call 368-0184, ext. 210.

## THANK YOU

*to Janine Chrysler who has taken over production of the newsletter and to Marie Davis who has put our mailing list on her computer and is furnishing labels for each issue.*



WILDFLOWER DRAWINGS BY NICKY STAUNTON

### 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.

## Gardening Catalogs

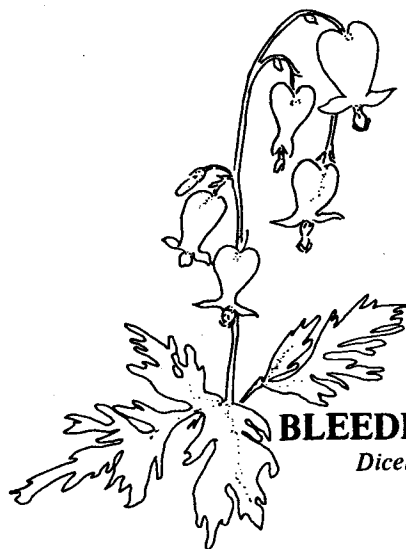
Blair Christolon is assembling a large collection of seed and plant catalogs for Central and Potomac Libraries. She has received catalogs from most of the nurseries listed in our last newsletter (Shadybrook Gardens does not sell by mail order) as well as ones listed in previous newsletters. Ask at the information desk for the gardening catalogs which can be used at the libraries, or, if more than one copy is available, can be checked out.

## Members Present Programs

Marion Blois has done her spring wildflower slide program for Occoquan Forest and Woodbine Woods Garden Clubs, and is scheduled for programs at the Manassas-Warrenton Area Camera Club and College Hour at NVCC, Manassas Campus, later this month.

Elaine Haug presented a program on spring wildflowers with an emphasis on rare, threatened, and endangered species at Wood-Mar Garden Club. The Club renewed its membership in the Society for the coming year.

**PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY**  
A CHAPTER OF THE  
**Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society**  
P.O. BOX 83, MANASSAS, VA 22110



**BLEEDING HEART**

*Dicentra eximia*

## Birds, Butterflies & Flowers

A Planting Guide for Virginia Nectar-Seekers, a free booklet published by the Virginia Game Commission's Non-Game Wildlife and Endangered Species Program, will help anyone interested in attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to the backyard.

The 20-page booklet discusses the trees, shrubs, and flowers (many natives) that constitute an ideal habitat for these delightful creatures. Larval foodplants preferred by 15 different Virginia butterflies are included.

Nicky Staunton has ordered a few extra copies and they will be available at our March 17th meeting. Or write or call for your own free copy: Jeffery M. Curtis, Wildlife Education Coordinator, Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104, (804)257-1000.

## Publications List

For a copy of VWPS's updated Publications and Gifts List send a self-addressed stamped envelope to VWPS-Orders, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003. The list contains books, T-shirts, publications, and other items which can be ordered from VWPS or Chapters.

1143 Stamp  
1137

Manassas Battlefield Park  
Attn: Barbara Mauller  
Manassas VA 22110

P.O. Box 1830

**MARCH MEETING: Monday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Church, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas**