

# WILD NEWS

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

## NOVEMBER MEETING

### RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE

MONDAY, NOV. 17, 7:30 P.M. BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Much of the joy of landscaping with native plants comes as a result of their great diversity. Natives grow in every conceivable combination of natural growing conditions and the fun comes in choosing just the right attractive native for a particular set of circumstances.

At Monday night's meeting Chris Kenney will help us with those choices in a program titled "Right Plant, Right Place". Chris is employed by Reston Home Owners Association and landscapes the community's recreational facilities.

You can get right to work on your own landscaping challenges with seeds from our extensive collection and with books from our lending library (see book list on page 3). Members will also have an opportunity to learn about PWWS's various committees and to sign up to work on as many committees as they wish.

Let's get our new membership year off to a good start with a good turnout for the meeting.

## Chapter Supports Park

Our Chapter supported Prince William Forest Park in their concerns about the effect of a proposed nearby housing development at a Planning Commission hearing on Nov. 5.

You have an opportunity to continue our support of this local conservation effort by attending a hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. at the McCoart Building. Elaine and Marion Blois represented us at the earlier hearing and plan to attend this one. Call Elaine, 670-2347, for more information and to let her know you can attend. Government officials do listen to groups of citizens.

In accordance with our policy to work with developers to save native plants whenever possible, Elaine Haug has gotten permission from the developer to survey and rescue on the property.

## NEXT MEETING

Mark your 1987 calendar for our next meeting: January 19 (3rd Monday), 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Details in the next issue of Wild News.



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## Time to Renew

A renewal form is included with this newsletter for anyone who needs it. You need it if you haven't renewed or joined as a new member since mid-Aug. If you're confused about your status call Elaine or Tom Carrig, Membership Chairmen, 791-3378.

## Secretary Daniel Will Speak

Northern Virginians will have a chance to learn firsthand about the goals of Virginia's new Department of Natural Resources from Secretary John W. Daniels, II. Daniels will speak at a meeting sponsored by the Sierra Club, Mt. Vernon Group, at 8:00 p.m., Dec. 8, Groveton Elementary School, Alexandria. Call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803, for more info and if you'd like to attend.

## Guide to Local Parks

Prince William County Park Authority has compiled a guide to the 35 or so parks and centers it operates. The guide outlines park locations and provides a brief description of each facility. Many facilities offer a wide variety of activities that can be enjoyed by the entire family. Pick up a free copy at any Park Authority office.

## Fall Festival Display

Nicky Staunton donned her education committee hat and represented our Chapter with a very attractive display at Prince William Forest Park's Fall Festival. The display presented an overview of our activities. Nicky handed out free seeds (packaged by Marie Davis) and answered questions from visitors throughout the day. More than 20 people signed up for additional information and/or complimentary copies of our newsletter.

## Gardening Handbook

The New England Wild Flower Society has published a 61-page handbook, the **Garden in the Woods Cultivation Guide**. It gives descriptions and cultivation requirements for over 275 plants that are cultivated and propagated at the Society's headquarters, Garden in the Woods. To order, send \$4.50 (includes postage) to New England Wild Flower Society, Dept. CG, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Rd., Framingham, MA 01701.

## WILD NEWS

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### CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Nicky Staunton 368-9803	Vice president: Sandi Mueller 791-5671
Secretary: Frances Louer 754-2824	Treasurer: Marie Davis 361-1626

FROM THE 

## PRESIDENT

Nicky Staunton

It's a new year! That is not premature at all. November 1st began a new year for Prince William Wildflower Society and your newly-elected officers have begun work in their respective roles.

There are several chairs to fill – the foremost being Conservation, a particularly important area of our concern. Work to be done includes assisting in efforts to obtain an arborist for Prince William Co./Manassas/Manassas Park. We need to educate ourselves and the public about endangered species, especially the small whorled pogonia with a colony located in our county. The person we are looking for would coordinate information and direct us in our letter writing, and be in contact with state, local, and national legislators. Let us know if this is your area of leadership.

Other areas of interest for the coming year are:

- Working with developers to survey and rescue plants from their properties;
- Securing repositories for rescued plants;
- Planning walks, lectures, slide shows, and publications;
- Selection of professional display stands to use during lectures and for display at Prince William Forest Park, county libraries and other spots;
- Maintenance of the Wildflower Garden at PWFP's Nature Center; plant propagation & sales;
- Development of educational efforts with youth through schools, scouts, 4-H;
- Cooperative projects with the Potowmack Chapter: guiding the spring bluebell walk at Bull Run Park, development of roadside plantings, and planning wildflower trails at the new Meadowlark Garden Park near Vienna.

There are so many jobs to be done that some of us are like a person trying to hold onto all the seed puffs from a butterfly-weed pod, losing a few but collecting most. We appreciate the offers of help from those of you who have renewed your membership – we'll be in touch with you!

If you have not yet renewed, please do. Today. And encourage any interested person to join us. We have tremendous opportunities this year to befriend Virginia's native plants. . . . It is a new year for us.

## Check Out Chapter Library

Our chapter lending library is for the convenience of our members. Books are available at each meeting or can be borrowed by calling Nicky Staunton at 368-9803. We ask that you return books by the following meeting. The library now contains:

- Eastern Deciduous Forest Wildplants in Flower, Korling-Pettis
- Ferns, Mickel
- Field Guide to Missouri Ferns, Key
- A Field Guide to Wildflowers Coloring Book, Peterson
- Flowering Plants of the World, Heywood
- A Garden of Wildflowers, Art
- \* Gardening With Wildflowers, Tenenbaum
- Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers, Phillips
- \* Growing Wildflowers, Sperka
- Growing Woodland Plants, Birdseye
- \* Handbook of Wildflower Cultivation, Taylor & Hamblin
- \* Herb Handbook
- How to Recognize Shrubs, Grimm
- How to Recognize Trees, Grimm
- How to Recognize Wild Plants, Grimm
- The Illustrated Book of Trees and Shrubs, Lawrence
- A Key to Missouri Trees in Winter, Cliburn & Klomps
- Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas, Radford, Ahles & Bell
- Missouri Wildflowers, Denison
- New Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names
- A Planting Guide for Virginia Nectar Seekers, Purdy
- \* Rare and Endangered Vascular Species in Virginia, Porter
- Resources on Wildflower Propagation, National Council State Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Trees, Eastern Central U.S.
- Trees and Shrubs of Virginia, Gupton & Swope
- Where Have All the Wildflowers Gone?, Mohlenbrock
- Wild Edibles of Missouri, Phillips
- Wild Gardening, Austin
- Wildflower Meadows, Martin
- Wildflowers for Your Garden, Hull
- Wildflower Gardening, Time Life, Crockett & Allen
- Wildflowers & Weeds, Courtenay & Zimmerman
- Wildflowers of Eastern America, Klimas (out for repairs)
- Wildflowers of the U.S., North East, Vols. 1 & 2; South East, Vols. 1 & 2, Ricketts

Continued ➡

## Thank you Thank You

I want to thank all board members for a terrific job during the past two years: Nicky Staunton, Vice President and Artist; Jean Chitren and Roxetta Wyer, Treasurer; Marie Davis, Secretary; Marion Blois, Conservation; Nicky Staunton and Jeannette Garrison, Education; Tom and Elaine Carrig, Membership; Nancy Arrington and Jeanine Chrysler, Newsletter and publicity; Sandi Mueller, Rescue; Nancy Arrington and Marie Davis, Propagation; Claudia Thompson-Deahl, Programs; Roxetta Wyer, Plant Sale. Their support and dedication to the Society made my job easy. A special thanks to anyone I may have missed.

Our Chapter Wildflower Week stands out as a great success due to a lot of hard work by our members. Our recent Annual Meeting also was outstanding and I'd like to thank our hosts Phil and Frances Louer for their hospitality, members who furnished door prizes, and all who brought food. We had a super day!

I also want to thank all of you for the beautiful pewter vase I received as out-going president. I've used it every day and will bring in to Monday night's meeting for those of you who haven't seen it.

Elaine Haug, Past President

## AHS Open House

American Horticultural Society's Christmas Open House will be December 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Admission is free. Offered for sale will be various holiday plants, fresh greens, crafts, gardening books, other gardening-related items and AHS's Endangered Wildflowers Calendar. Info: Sharon Barnes, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121.

## Propagation Committee Has Seeds

The Propagation Committee will have seeds at Monday night's meeting. This year's harvest includes some new species as well as our old favorites. If you can't make it to the meeting but are interested in seeds, call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431, or write to her at P.O. Box 462, Manassas, VA 22110 for a list of available species.

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\* These books have been out of the library for an extended period of time and we'd like very much to get them back. Please check through your own shelves and let Nicky know if you have them.

## 1987 Calendar

The American Horticulture Society's popular Endangered Wildflowers calendar is available again this year. The large format (8½" x 23" when open) wall calendar includes 16 full-color photographs and information on each endangered species pictured.

Elaine Haug will have a few copies at Monday night's meeting or you can order directly from AHS: send \$6.95 (includes postage; VA residents please add 4% sales tax) to Jeanne Eggeman, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121.

## Botany-Survey

I hope this coming year will be full of discoveries of new (not yet recorded) plants in Prince William and Stafford Counties. We want to visit members' properties as well as explore public lands. We will be searching for more sites of the endangered small whorled pogonia (not a begonia as reported by one local newspaper). If you want to share your treasures with us or go exploring, please get in touch with me by Jan. 1. Don't be left out!

Elaine Haug, Chairman

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The beauty of  
wildflowers in winter  
captured by  
Nicky Staunton's pen.

## Natives Thrive in Central Park

The *Avant Gardener*, Nov. 1986, in an article (originally published in *The Green Scene*) on the restoration of plantings in New York City's Central Park describes several native American shrubs "which will thrive despite poor soil, drought, flooding, pollution and intensive use by some 14 million park visitors a year.

In lightly shaded situations . . . witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) stands the worst exposure and soil conditions and provides protection for other plants."

*Viburnum prunifolium* (blackhaw) is valued for beautiful foliage and fruit and its ability to "stand compacted soils, heat, drought and wind. Though more delicate-appearing, the graceful sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) has adapted well to poor, compacted soils when given a deep organic mulch.

Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) and greystem dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) all grow well in combination on rocky, fully exposed sites, as well as in open meadows and on the banks of ponds."



David & Nancy Arrington  
P.O. Box 462  
Manassas VA 22110

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Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas