

# WILD NEWS

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

## JULY MEETING

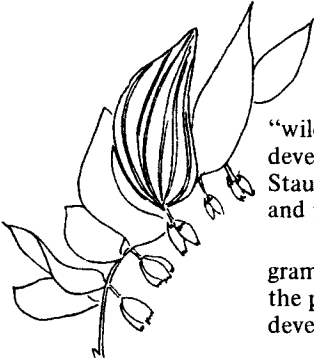
### Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens

Monday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas

An area beneath deciduous trees carpeted with spring wildflowers says "wildflower garden" to most people. The "Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens" developed by PWWS members Marie Davis and Nancy Arrington using Nicky Staunton's slides expands the theme to include shady spots away from trees, and plants that bloom through the summer and into fall.

At Monday night's meeting members will have a chance to see the program that has been presented to several garden clubs and other groups during the past year. Bring your friends and neighbors who might be interested in developing woodland gardens for a look at a variety of suitable plants.



### Educational Display at Fair

We will have a chance to show-off our newly purchased display unit at the Prince William County Fair, August 14 through 22.

Nicky Staunton, Kathy Ehrenberger, and Jenifer and Alden Bradford are working on "Meadow Wildflowers" for the display this year. They would like one member to be at the Fair with the display during peak visiting hours to hand out literature and answer questions about the Society and its activities. Call Nicky, 368-9803, or Jenifer, 594-3422, if you can help out for even an hour or so.

### First Corporate Member

Welcome and thank-you to PWWS's first corporate member, White Oak Nurseries, 12521 Lee Highway near Gainesville and just down the road from Conway Robinson Memorial Forest.

### Thank-you

Our chapter presented a certificate of appreciation to Mrs. Elvere Cox for the publicity she has given us over the past five years in her "In and Around Manassas" column in **The Journal Messenger**.

### PWWS Annual Meeting

PWWS's Annual Meeting-Pot Luck Lunch will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, at the home of Jenifer and Alden Bradford near Nokesville. Thirty-day advance notice with all the details will be mailed to members in August.

### Canoe the Marshes

Explore the Potomac River tidal marshes of Veterans' Park, just off Rt. 1 near Woodbridge, on Thursday, July 25, 6-8 p.m. The trip will include a basic "how to canoe" clinic. Cost is \$5 per person or \$8 per couple. Advance paid registration is required. Call 491-2183 to make reservations and for more information. PWWS Botany Chairman Elaine Haug will lead the excursion.

### November Meeting

Mark your calendar for our November meeting, the third Monday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Church. Program Chairman Claudia Thompson-Deahl has arranged for a program on edible plants.

## VWPS Annual Meeting

If you haven't sent in your reservation for VWPS's Annual Meeting, Sept. 18-20, in Williamsburg, get busy! The George Washington Inn is holding a block of rooms, but they're going fast.

In addition to the reception and business meeting weekend highlights include field trips to diverse habitats, silent auction, and a banquet with Laura Martin, author of **The Wildflower Meadow Book**, as guest speaker.

Plan ahead and take five of your favorite slides for showing and/or your "What's It?" slides for the program Elaine Haug is coordinating.

Several PWWS members are planning to attend -- call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803, for carpooling, etc.

## New Library Additions

Our chapter has donated a copy of the recently published **Atlas of the Flora of Virginia** to both Central and Potomac Libraries. A copy has also been put in our chapter library along with a list of Virginia wetland plants.

As a result of Elaine Haug's diligence our chapter library now contains **A Key to the Trees and Shrubs and A Partial Check-list of the Flora of Prince William County, Virginia**. The publication is a dissertation by Sister Mary Antoinette Biley of the Order of Saint Benedict, Bristow, Va., and was submitted to Catholic University in June 1934.

Elaine borrowed the only known copy (the original is at C.U.) from Linton Hall, edited it with common names, and had it copied for the library. The editing was a difficult job according to Elaine because many of the botanical names have changed during the past 53 years.

## WILD NEWS

is published six times a year by Prince William Wildflower Society, a Chapter of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110

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FROM THE 

## PRESIDENT

Nicky Staunton

This July and August while you are re-creating your energies -- sitting in the shade of a favorite tree -- or, hiking a trail -- or, sunning by some cool water or, wherever you can, please think about VWPS-PWWS activities in '87 til now.

Then, think about what's going on for you in July and August:

"Woodland Gardens"

Seed collecting

Scouting the County for areas of concern (conservation)

'88 Wildflower Planning

"Meadow Wildflowers" and the Prince William County Fair

PWWS Annual Meeting at the Bradfords' Meadow

VWPS Annual Meeting in Williamsburg

Finally, give some thought to what is to come with our new wildflower year beginning Nov. 1

What would you like to learn from programs? Tell us.

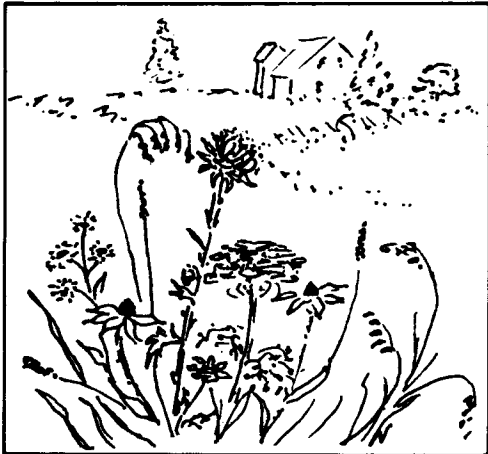
Which legislation interests you? Tell us.

Which PWWS areas of action can you move along? Tell us.

Who can you bring to membership? Tell us, we'll send them our "Wild News".

PWWS has a new "tool" to help us "work for measures to protect . . . preserve . . ." You, through your membership dues and financial support of the plant sales and other fund-raising activities, have made it possible for the chapter to purchase a display unit. Plans for programs using it will center on educating members, the public, developers and others.

So, to each member of PWWS, you deserve **great appreciation** for bringing our Society's program this far! Rest well this summer . . . get some good ideas formed about PWWS to share -- and come the fall, "hit the road running" to be an effective group with the native Virginia flora being the beneficiary.



## Meadows: A Personal Perspective

JENIFER M. BRADFORD  
PWWS Member

A meadow is a native landscape. A good definition might be an open canopy containing grasses, forbes, and flowering plants. The word meadow comes from the words "to mow", originating from "mouth", as grazed by animals. The French word is "prairie", a familiar word in the Midwest that suggests grasslands to many people.

It is a means of landscaping with native plants, preserving the natural, studying wildflowers, bringing back nostalgia for things past (history), offering a refuge not only for flowering plants but for grasses, fungi, small shrubs, even some trees, and providing a home for native animals and nesting/feeding areas for wild birds, butterflies, and insects. A meadow can be a restful retreat from the busy world, garden therapy, beautiful to behold, and an artist's/photographer's delight. Remember that native landscapes conserve energy and water. A meadow needs mowing only once a year whereas a lawn needs mowing once a week in the growing season.

Natural meadows are treeless grassy tracts in the floodplains alongside large rivers. They are practically nonexistent because the regulation of rivers has eliminated floods. Riverside meadows have generally been replaced by fields. Meadows are not characteristic in the Northeast. They can be defined as: Openings in the forest. Salt marshes. Sand dunes. Wet areas. Alpine areas (high in altitude) and Prairie

(true grassland found only in the Midwest). Most of our meadow areas were man-made after the Eastern deciduous forests were cut and cleared and made into fields by early farmers. Cutting once a year prevents the growth of the natural succession of woody plants and seedlings which try to reforest the area.

### Meadow Gardening

The idea of a meadow garden is comparatively new to the Northeast, probably within the past ten years. Meadows need full sun to provide the best growing conditions. The soil should be fertile, rich in humus, and free of stones. Moisture preferences differ from dry, moist, to wet conditions. Good air movement is important. Grasses and small shrubs must be able to dry quickly after heavy rainfalls to avoid stem damage and disease. Airborne pollen has to move freely. Old pastures make the best meadows.

Since a meadow is a grassland, I think the composition should be about 90% grasses and 10% flowering plants and shrubs. I've seen examples where wildflowers predominate or where woody and weedy plants overpower the grasses. I like the traditional look of a sweeping prairie waving in the breeze. A planting shouldn't show the hand of the designer. It should be flowing and free-form with clumps of the same flower and color, placed at random, but with some attention to form, height, bloom time, and shades of color. Shorter plants should be placed where they can best be viewed, taller plants further back, or on a rise. Invasive plants should be placed in the background away from moist areas - where they increase even faster!

I prefer to buy and transplant mature-sized plants from a local source (area gardener, friend, or nursery) since these plants are well established and less likely to fail when introduced into the wild. Seeds can be bought from many sources, scattered onto prepared soil, or raised as seedlings and later transplanted.

### Development of Our Meadow

We began making our meadow in the fall of 1982, one and a half years before building our house. First we bushhogged the entire five acres (mostly a former cornfield that had lain fallow for a year and thus resorted to a field of ragweed). Next a friend with a small tractor ploughed and disked the field. We applied fertilizer and a pasture mix of white and red clover and perennial rye. We planted our first grouping of evergreens on the western boundary and liberated several large trees from certain strangulation by Japanese honeysuckle and poison ivy.

continued on page 4

Cool temperatures and abundant rainfall over the winter produced a grassy field, but which still contained many noxious weeds. A local contractor installed a paddock fence around the perimeter of the property in the spring of '83. We planted additional trees and native shrubs along the boundaries. The grass began to thicken up by fall. More trees were planted.

Construction of the house and driveway commenced in April 1984 and was finished in January 1985. Two acres had turned into a satisfactory meadow by this time with just a few areas of honeysuckle, poison ivy, and wild grape. The natural swale and stream bed had developed into a lush area filled with wild blackberry, elderberry, sedges and marsh grasses, jewelweed, Joepyc weed, ironweed, and goldenrod. However, the remaining three acres were deemed too weedy to leave alone, so in the spring of '85 these acres were again ploughed, graded, and fine graded. We planned to seed immediately with a good grade of heat-tolerant grass seed but a very dry forecast (and professional advice) caused us to wait until fall.

In early October we again had the three acres disked and graded and my parents helped us handseed the area. Gradually the grasses and wildflowers settled in and we were able to leave a larger area undisturbed by mower. However, by late spring of '86 the acreage to the west and north of the house was too weedy to leave uncut, so we mowed these areas every two weeks throughout the growing season to discourage the weeds. By fall the grass had gained a much tighter and stronger foothold.

We had the entire meadow bushhogged in mid-March this year (1987) and watched its growth with interest. We felt we could give the grasses and wildflowers a freehand by April, and cut curves and pathways throughout the meadow to add interest and access. It has been a joy to observe the abundance of plant life this spring and summer. Every three to four weeks we notice several major species predominating in the fields. From early spring wildflowers to native grasses and now summer foliage, the meadow sparkles with color and form. By June the meadow topped out at about three to four feet and rippled in the wind as a true prairie should. By early July the grass was golden. Meadows are in full flower by mid-summer and we await early fall with great expectation and the arrival of many old favorites (all completely native to the area and self-sown).

This spring, for the first time, we introduced some select species of wildflowers (courtesy of PWWS mem-

bers and friends) into three distinct areas: the stream-bank and bed, the upper swale (both moist areas, one slightly shaded), and the dry, open meadow. To date all are doing well and many have bloomed or are making seedheads. We plan to add other choice flowers in the fall or spring and to divide the perennials when necessary.

A wildflower border, some 40' in length and 3' wide, was established this spring/summer in full sun at the edge of the meadow facing the house. Here we hope to nurture healthy specimens of mainly perennial and biennial favorites. From these specimens, seeds will be collected and propagated and large clumps of perennials will be divided and transplanted into the meadow, particularly along the pathways. This border provides an everchanging feast of form and color easily viewed from house and patio and enables the flowers to be viewed *en masse*.

On page 5 is a list of the major wildflowers native to our meadow followed by the introduced species. The border does contain many more plants not yet introduced into the meadow.

### Meadow Symposium

At a recent symposium on meadow landscapes, sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society, National Park Service, National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. National Arboretum, numerous speakers and panel members discussed meadows. The consensus reached by professional landscaper and amateur gardener alike was that many of us had reached similar conclusions. No one admitted to being "an expert"; we were all learning together and making a meadow was a "trial and error" procedure over time.

It was generally agreed that mid-March is the best time to give the meadow an annual cut. Woody plants need recutting in early June. Mid-summer (July/August) is recommended if a second cut is necessary. Disturb the soil as little as possible when working or digging in the field. Grub out by hand all noxious weeds (February is the preferred month, before growth starts and poison ivy gets a hold). The four main noxious weeds in our area are wild rose, bittersweet, thistle, and honeysuckle (to which I might add wild grape, wild blackberry, ragweed, and, of course, poison ivy). Create eye pleasing curves at the perimeter of a meadow. Introduce choice native species for color, variety, fragrance, and attractiveness to wildlife. It was reiterated that vast sums of money could be saved by returning a lawn to a meadow (less cutting, fertilizing, watering, labor) and that a meadow is the natural way for grass to grow.

## WILDFLOWERS IN THE BRADFORDS' MEADOW

### NATIVE

#### Spring

Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium augustifolium</i>
Bluets	<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla argenta</i>
Clover, Red	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Common Blue Violet	<i>Viola papilionacea</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>
Golden Ragwort	<i>Senecio aureus</i>
Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pratense</i>
Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>
Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>

#### Summer

Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Chickory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>
Common Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Deptford Pink	<i>Dianthus armeria</i>
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>
Feverfew	<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i>
Fleabane Daisy	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>
Jewelweed*	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Lamb's Ears	<i>Stachys lanata</i>
Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
Ox-Eye Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>
Queen Anne's Lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Smartweed	<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>
Thistle	<i>Cirsium Spp.</i>
Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Yarrow, White	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

#### Fall

Goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>
Ironweed, New York*	<i>Veronia noveboracensis</i>
Joe-Pye-Weed*	<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>
Tick-seed Sunflower	<i>Bidens aristosa</i>

\*Moist area

*Shown in Nicky Staunton's drawing of the Bradfords' meadow are black-eyed Susans, fleabane and ox-eye daisies, grasses, musk thistles, and Queen-Anne's lace.*

### INTRODUCED

#### Spring

(A small shaded area)	
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>
Dutchman's Breeches	<i>Dicentra cucularia</i>
Geranium, Wild	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>
Lyre-leaf Sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>
Yellow Violet	<i>Viola pubescens</i>
(Moist, sunny)	
Dames Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Meadow-Rue, Early	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>
(Wet, sunny)	

Iris, Blue

Iris, Yellow

Marsh Marigold

Royal Fern

#### Summer

(Dry, sunny)

Beebalm

Bellflower, Tall

Blackberry Lily

Bouncing Bet

Butterfly-weed

Daylily

Foxglove

Purple Coneflower

Spiderwort

Sundrops

#### Fall

(Moist, sunny)

Green-headed Coneflower *Rudbeckia laciniata*

Loosestrife, Yellow *Lysimachia terrestris*

New England Aster *Aster novae-angliae*

(Wet, sunny)

Boneset

Cardinal Flower

False Dragonhead

Lobelia, Downey

Monkey-Flower

Swamp Milkweed

Turtlehead, White

*Iris versicolor*

*Iris pseudacorus*

*Caltha palustris*

*Osmunda regalis*

*Monarda didyma*

*Campanula americana*

*Belamcanda chinensis*

*Saponaria officinalis*

*Asclepias tuberosa*

*Hemerocallis Spp.*

*Digitalis purpurea*

*Echinacea purpurea*

*Tradescantia virginiana*

*Oenothera fruticosa*

*Eupatorium perfoliatum*

*Lobelia cardinalis*

*Physostegia virginiana*

*Lobelia puberula*

*Mimulus ringens*

*Asclepias incarnata*

*Chelone glabra*

## Think Seeds

Remember to collect wildflower seeds to share with other members in the seed exchange our chapter has each fall. Watch ripening seed closely and collect at the right time — after fully ripe but before it falls to the ground or gets dispersed by the wind, insects, etc. Consult Harry Phillip's **Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers** or other books in our chapter library for tips on seed collecting.



## Local Birding

Learn bird watching basics and become familiar with some of the County's many birds at the following free programs listed in Prince William County Park Authority's Calendar of Events:

Sat., July 18: Morning Birdwalk at Lake Ridge Park. Call 491-2183 for time.

Sat., Aug. 1: Morning Birdwalk at Veterans' Park. Call 491-2183 for time.

Sat., Aug. 1 at 1 p.m.: Warbler's Clinic at Locust Shade Park. Call 491-2183 for more info.

Sun., Aug. 2 at 1 p.m.: Warbler's Clinic at Veterans' Park. Call 491-2183 for info.

Call the Park Authority, 670-9118, if you'd like to be put on the mailing list to receive their Calendar of Events. Copies are available each month at local libraries, parks, and other locations.

## Wildflower Garden Dedicated

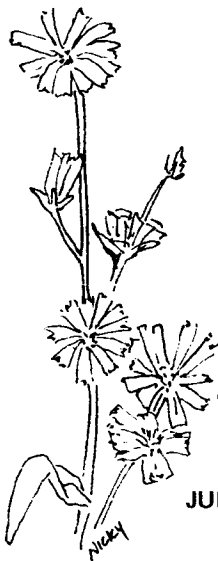
Trowel Garden Club recently held a dedication ceremony for the wildflower garden its members have developed at Locust Shade Park near Triangle.

The garden was started two years ago as a project of PWS's Adopt-A-Park program. Chairman Jeannette Garrison explains its objectives: to save wildflowers and shrubs from destruction, to encourage conservation, to educate the public, and to beautify an area of the park.

Jeannette and other club members rescued plants over the past two years for the garden which is located near the main park entrance close to the golf driving range and miniature golf course.

Though Jeannette has moved from the area, Trowel Garden Club members will continue to care for the garden. A copy of the dedication ceremony program containing a list of plants in the garden will be available at Monday-night's meeting.

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



## CHICKORY

(*Cichorium intybus*)

**JULY MEETING: Monday, July 20, 1987, 7:30 p.m.**  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas



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