

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

## MARCH MEETING

# Wildlife Caught In A Squeeze

**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 7:30 P.M. BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Wildlife habitats are destroyed daily in Prince William County and other rapidly developing areas as more and more land is cleared for development. As urban and suburban dwellers we often clear much of whatever vegetation we inherit to grow lush lawns. We see tall grass, thickets, and briar patches as messy and unkempt. All the clearing and cleaning up puts birds, butterflies, and other creatures "in a squeeze" with fewer food sources and less natural vegetation for cover and nesting.

If you're concerned and frustrated about this situation come to the March meeting to hear Laurel Wanow's program. She is a naturalist at Riverbend Park where many wildlife habits are being preserved, and she will have some positive suggestions for ways we can help "wildlife caught in a squeeze." Your neighbors, friends, and relatives are welcome — bring some.

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## PARTICIPATE IN WILDFLOWER WEEK — APRIL 20-26

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### Our Hedgerows and Wildflowers

Prince William Wildflower Society members and guests are invited to a joint Piedmont Chapter, VWPS and Audubon Naturalist Society meeting Sunday, March 15, 2:00 p.m. at Oatlands near Leesburg.

Dr. Stanwyn G. Shetler, Curator of Botany, Acting Associate Director of the National Museum of Natural History, and a VWPS charter member, will be guest lecturer.

Books, seeds, and wildflowers will be sold and refreshments will be served. Members and guests who plan to attend can call Nicky Staunton for more information and carpooling, 368-9803.

## Regional Flora

Northern Virginia Community College's Regional Flora (Biol 276, 3 credits) begins Thursday, April 2, and runs through June 11. Thursday lectures will be 7-8:50 p.m. and instructor Marion Blois has scheduled weekend field trips for April 4, 11, 18; May 9, 24; and June 6. Register at the Manassas Campus through April 2. For more info, call the College at 368-0184 or Marion at ext. 262.

## COMING

Mark your calendar for our next two meetings:

**Mon., May 18 - Pr. Wm. Co.'s Tree Ordinance**

**Mon., July 20 - Woodland Garden Wildflowers**

**Meetings are 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church**

## Great Meadow Workdays

Continuing with our VWPS regional landscape project at Great Meadow, the following workdays have been scheduled there:

Sunday March 22, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.

Hundreds of wildflowers especially selected and grown for the site are ready for their early spring "coming out." We expect these vigorous natives to add more color and variety to species already planted there.

If you have a half-day or even an hour, Prince William members are encouraged and welcome to assist with these plantings. Members from Piedmont and Potowmack chapters will also join you there. Please bring your own gardening gloves, a spade and/or trowel, and a lunch if you wish; dress for windy spring weather.

Directions: from Rt. 66, take The Plains/Old Tavern exit, turn left onto Rt. 245 toward Old Tavern. Drive 2 miles; turn left into the Members Gate, park by the Summer House. The planting area is located in the middle of the steeplechase course. For further information and carpooling, call PWWS project liaison Jennifer Bradford, 594-3422, or Mary Painter, 364-1665.

*Submitted by Mary Painter  
Project Coordinator, Piedmont Chapter*

## Visit Our Park Garden

Marie Davis has been out sprucing up our Wildflower Garden at Prince William Forest Park for spring visitors. The garden contains around 100 species planted in dry and wet, sunny and shady areas. The garden, located beside the Nature Center, is open year-round.

## 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

Editor: Nancy Arrington  
368-8431

Artist: Nicky Staunton  
368-9803

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Nicky Staunton      Vice president: Sandi Mueller  
368-9803      791-5671

Secretary: Frances Louer      Treasurer: Marie Davis  
754-2824      361-1626

FROM THE 

## PRESIDENT

Nicky Staunton

Laurel Wanow, of Fairfax's Riverbend Park, our speaker for the March meeting, will tell us about "Wildlife Caught In A Squeeze" — how about you? Do you feel the same "squeeze" as our native wildlife?

City lots — trees today — razed in one day — soil moved and build upon with no replacement of note of trees, shrubs or other plants which harbor wildlife — and, us. No longer do we have coveys of bobwhite, bunny nurseries, a wandering wild turkey or deer. Instead we have "convenience." However, the 5 minute drive to the grocery is now 45 minutes. Convenience?

As you commute Rt. 66 or 95 . . . traffic stalls. You sit. Along the roads you see gravel, unkept shrubs filled with refuse thrown and blown there.

What can you do to make this less of a "squeeze"? PWWS wants to protect the habitats of all natives — flora, fauna, human. Help us work toward hiring a County Arborist. We want to place native flowers, grasses, shrubs, trees along highways. Help us work with the Virginia Highway Dept. along lines begun by the Piedmont Chapter of VWPS. Help us educate, preserve, and cultivate in our County.

You see, we find ourselves in a "squeeze." We do not have to let it tighten; rather, move with PWWS to "ease the squeeze."

## Chapter Represented

Prince William Wildflower Society was well represented at White Oak Nursery's Landscaping and Tree Care Seminar on Feb. 21. Claudia Thompson-Deahl presented a slide program on Wildflowers for Sunny Areas at the morning session, and Marie Davis and Nancy Arrington did Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens at the afternoon session. Nicky Staunton set up our educational display complete with membership folders and other materials.

## Funding Approved

Faith Campbell reports that \$25,000. has been approved for the Virginia Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act. Our letter writing paid off!

## Meadowlark Gardens Opens

Opening day for Northern Virginia Regional Park's newest facility, Meadowlark Gardens, is Saturday, May 2, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The public is invited for a free look at the 100-acre horticultural park and a day of musical entertainment.

Thousands of bulbs, flowering plants, and trees have been planted beside the park's three lakes. Meadowlark Gardens will eventually feature a water garden, wildflower trails, azalea and rhododendron plantings, evergreen groves, gazebos, and other displays.

The park is located along Beulah Rd. near the Dulles Access Rd. in Vienna.

## Scholarship Funds Available

PWWS members are invited to take advantage of the chapter scholarship fund. Money can be used to wholly or partially sponsor chapter representatives to educational seminars, conferences, and other gatherings.

The function should relate to a chapter activity the member is involved in or intends to become involved in, thereby benefiting the entire chapter. The recipient will be asked to share his/her experiences via a brief written and/or oral report.

Informal verbal or written requests can be given to and executive committee member and will be considered on an individual basis.

## Winter Native Workshop

A good crowd turned out for PWWS's Winter Native Plant Workshop on Feb. 21. Members and guests learned winter identification tips from Marion Blois and enjoyed a walk along the campus nature trail with Marion and Jean Chitren. Reception of this first workshop was excellent and we hope to make a winter workshop an annual event.

## Ireland Tour

If you haven't signed up for the wildflower tour Marion Blois is leading for Vantage Tours in Ireland, June 20-29, get busy and send in your reservation. Call Marion if you didn't receive a mailing about the tour.

Marion will be showing her "Wildflowers and Scenic Views" slide program at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19, Room 214 at the college in case you missed this beautiful program at our January meeting.

Call Marion, 361-1450, for more information.

## Conservancy Internships

Larry Morse announces the opening of science intern positions at The Nature Conservancy. Entrance requirements include 30 wpm typing and familiarity with computer data entry; salary is \$5-6.50/hr. Time period is negotiable, but internships are usually 10 wks full-time or 20 wks. half-time (35-hr. weeks).

If you're interested in working for The Nature Conservancy contact Anne Van Sweringen, Scientific Info. Mgr., The Nature Conservancy, 1800 N. Kent St., Arlington, VA 22209, (703) 841-5360. There is no application deadline as positions open as needs change; applications will be kept on file one year.



## Wildflower Walks

Prince William Wildflower Society has scheduled the following walks for this spring. You may want to call beforehand or watch local papers to be sure walks will be held as listed here.

**April 5 (Sunday) 2 p.m. Horsetails and Spring Wildflowers, Prince William Forest Park, Triangle.** Meet leader Elaine Haug at Park Headquarters. Call Elaine, 670-2347 for information.

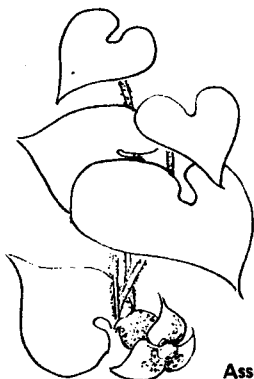
**April 18 (Saturday) 9 a.m. Trillium Walk** Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, Gainesville. Meet leader Jean Chitren in the parking lot. Expect to see bluebells, troutlilies, spring beauties also. Call Jean for information, 221-4489.

**May 2 (Saturday) 10 a.m. Pink Lady's-slipper Search.** Place to be announced. Call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803 for information.

**May 17 (Sunday) 2 p.m. Wetlands at Leesylvania State Park.** Meet leader Elaine Haug at the Pilot House Restaurant parking lot at the end of Neabsco Rd. Expect to see sweetflag, yellow iris and other aquatics. Call Elaine for information, 670-2347.

**June 7 (Sunday) 1 p.m. Yellow Lady's-slipper Trek,** Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, Gainesville. Meet leader Jean Chitren in the parking lot. Call Jean for information, 221-4489.

**June 20 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m. Meadow Wildflowers.** Place to be announced. Call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803, for information.



## Wild Ginger

(*Asarum canadense*)

**MARION BLOIS**  
Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

The lovely three-clefted purplish-red flowers of wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) nestling at the base of two handsome, heart-shaped leaves provides a special joy to spring wildflower enthusiasts. These unusual flowers, resembling a miniature tricorn hat, are usually covered with oak or beech leaves that must be carefully brushed away to reveal their special beauty (watch out for snakes and do not injure the flower).

*Asarum canadensis* is a member of the Aristolochiaceae or birthwort family. The scientific and common family names are based on the ancient European practice of using tonics derived from members of this family to induce labor during childbirth. *Asarum* is a Greek name for some European members of this genus and *canadense* refers to Canada. The name was assigned by Linnaeus himself.

The most popular common name for this species is wild ginger referring to the fragrance and taste of its "rootstock" (an elongated rhizome) resembling the true ginger root. True ginger is an Oriental species and is a monocot. (Despite its flower parts being in threes, wild ginger is a dicot.) Other common names are Indian ginger, coltsfoot (referring to the shape of the leaves), black snakeroot (referring possibly to its use at one time as a snakebite remedy), black snakeweed, Canada snakeroot, southern snakeroot, Vermont snakeroot, and colic root (for one of its medical uses).

Wild ginger can be found in cool, shaded, moist woods and on slopes from New England to Appalachia into the Carolinas. In our area it blooms from mid-April into May.

The solitary flower of wild ginger is found at the base of the fork of two leaf petioles. This bell-shaped flower with three prominent points is purplish- or maroonish-brown inside and greenish-brown outside. The three-clefted flower is made up of sepals only (no petals), twelve stamens, and a pistil that is composed

of an inferior ovary at the base of a thick style with a 6-sided stigma.

The pollinators of wild ginger are reported to be mushroom ants (some people claim the flower smells like mushrooms), various flies, and beetles. The pistil matures first, then the stamens to ensure cross-pollination. The fruit that forms is a capsule that literally turns to a mushy texture exposing the seeds for dispersal by ants. The brown seeds have a prominent fleshy appendage, an elaiosome, that attracts ants that carry off the seed by this appendage, chew off the elaiosome, and either eat this fat-rich body themselves or carry it into their nest to feed their larvae. This phenomenon is known as "myrmecochory."

The softly hairy, heart-shaped leaves of wild ginger are 3-5 inches wide, stand 3-6 inches tall, and are usually found in pairs with the solitary flower developing at the "crotch" at the base of the two leaf petioles. Unlike many of the woodland spring wildflowers the leaves of wild ginger may persist until late fall. A well developed rhizome (a horizontal underground stem) gives this species its common name because it has the fragrance and taste of true ginger as mentioned earlier. This rhizome system allows for asexual propagation of new plants.

The rhizomes of wild ginger were used by American Indians as well as early settlers to flavor foods and for many medicinal purposes. Some Indian tribes considered the tonic derived from wild ginger rhizomes to be a panacea while other tribes and European settlers used it to treat specific problems such as headaches, stomach gas, colic, digestive upset, spasms of bowels, colds, fever, female problems, and to aid inducing labor at birth. In more recent times, antibiotic substances have been isolated from wild ginger and other members of this genus.

In Virginia there are six other species placed either in the genus *Asarum* or *Hexastylis*. The leaves of all these species are evergreen and leathery and the flowers resemble leathery jugs clustered at the leaf base. There is still a debate regarding which genus name is correct.

The joy of brushing away dried leaves to reveal the lovely flower of wild ginger is a wonderful spring wildflower experience. Share gently and carefully in this joy this spring and find your own wild ginger flower for the first time or greet it as an old and dear friend.

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**We can send two complimentary issues of our newsletter to prospective members. Send names of anyone you know who might be interested in joining PWWS to Nancy Arrington, Editor, P.O. Box 462, Manassas, VA 22110.**

# SPRING CALENDAR

Since events are sometimes scheduled well in advance you should call the contact person to be sure a particular event is still scheduled as reported here.

- March 15 (Sun.) Our Hedgerows and Wildflowers, 2 p.m., Oatlands, Leesburg. Info 368-9803 (see pg. 1)
- March 16 (Mon.) Wildlife Caught In A Squeeze, PWWS Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church. (see pg. 1)
- March 18-20 (Wed.-Sun.) Washington Flower and Garden Show, Washington Convention Center. Info 569-7141
- March 19 (Thurs.) The Growth of A Biblical Garden, 1:30 p.m., National Arboretum. Info 202-475-4857
- March 21 (Sat.) Designing With Native Plants-A Symposium, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., National Arboretum
- March 19 (Thurs.) Wildflowers and Scenic Views of Ireland (slide program) 12:30 p.m., NVCC-Manassas, Info 361-1450 (see pg. 3)
- March 22 (Sun.) Workday at Great Meadow, 12:30 p.m. Info 594-3422 (see pg. 2)
- March 22 (Sun.) Azaleas Old and New, 1:30 p.m., National Arboretum. Registration Info 202-475-4857; \$4.00
- March 22 (Sun.) Last Winter Hike, 2 p.m., Prince William Forest Park Nature Center, Triangle. Info 221-2104
- March 22 (Sun.) Introduction To Spring Wildflowers, 2 p.m., Hidden Pond Nature Center, Springfield. 451-9588
- March 27 & 28 (Fri. & Sat.) Advanced Beekeeping Smart Course, NVCC-Manassas. Info 221-4489 (see pg. 6)
- March 29 (Sun.) Tree Hike, 1 p.m., Prince William Forest Park Nature Center, Triangle. Info 221-2104
- March 30 (Mon.) Early Spring Wildflower Walk, National Arboretum's Fern Valley. Info 202-475-4857
- April 1 (Wed.) Workday at Great Meadow, 10 a.m. Info 594-3422 (see pg. 2)
- April 4 (Sat.) Workday at Great Meadow, 10 a.m. Info 594-3422 (see pg. 2)
- April 4 & 5 (Sat. & Sun.) Water Gardening Symposium, National Wildlife Federation Hdqtrs. Info 768-5700 (pg. 6)
- April 5 (Sun.) PWWS Horsetails & Spring Wildflowers Walk, 2 p.m., Leesylvania Park. Info 670-2347 (see pg. 3)
- April 11 (Sat.) 59th Annual Georgetown Garden Tour, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Info 202-333-6896 or 202-333-6252
- April 18 (Sat.) PWWS Trillium Walk, 9 a.m., Conway Robinson Mem. Forest, Gainesville. Info 221-4489 (pg. 3)
- APRIL 18-20 Wildflower Activities Period — APRIL 20-26 WILDFLOWER WEEK — See VWPS Special Mailing**
- April 19 (Sun.) Bluebell Walk, 2:30 p.m., Bull Run Regional Park. Info 352-5908 or 631-0550 (see pg. 6)
- April 24-26 (Fri.-Sun.) Annual Roanoke Valley Wildflower Pilgrimage. Info Vicki Ellis, 703-341-5710
- April 25 & 26 (Sat & Sun) Wildflower Garden Tour, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. & 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Info: 368-9803, 361-1626
- May 2 (Sat.) PWWS Pink Lady's-slipper Search, 10 a.m., Place TBA. Info 368-9803 (see pg. 3)
- May 2 (Sat.) Grand Opening Gala, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Meadowlake Gardens, Vienna. (see pg. 3)
- May 3 (Sun.) PWWS Chapter Fern Valley Tour, 1:30 p.m., National Arboretum. Info 368-9803 (see pg. 6)
- May 9 (Sat.) PWWS Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church. Info: 361-8615, 361-1626, 368-8431 (pg.7)
- May 10 (Sun.) Potomack Chapter Plant Sale, Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale. Info 528-6170 or 960-1476
- May 18 (Mon.) Pr. Wm. Co's Tree Ordinance, PWWS Chapter Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (details next newsletter)
- June 7 (Sun.) PWWS Yellow Lady's-slipper Trek, 1 p.m., Conway Robinson Memorial Forest. Info 221-4489.
- June 20 (Sat.) PWWS Meadow Wildflowers Walk, 9:30 a.m., Place TBA. Info 368-9803 (see pg. 3)

## ENDANGERED WILDFLOWERS CALENDAR

The 1987 Endangered Wildflower Calendar, regularly priced at \$6.95, has been reduced to \$5.00. The calendar consists of a page on how to "Help Endangered Wildflowers In Your Region" and a page titled "Where to Write for Plant Conservation Information" and full-color photos and information on 15 endan-

gered plants. The information is useful even if you never use the calendar. Virginia plants pictured this year include the Virginia least trillium, Carey saxifrage, and Addison's leather-flower. Call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803, for your copy.

## Library Folder Available

Blair Christolon updated our "Wildflower Lover's Guide to the Prince William Library" and a new supply of the brochures has been printed. Copies will be available at our March 16th meeting, or Nancy Arrington will mail a copy to you if you call her at 368-8431.

## Water Gardening Symposium

A Water Gardening Symposium will be held April 4 and 5 at the National Wildlife Federation headquarters, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA. Sponsoring organizations are the American Horticultural Society, Water Lily Society, Lilypons Water Gardens in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the National Arboretum and Brookside Gardens. Call the AHS, 703-768-5700 for more information.

## PWWS Fern Valley Tour

Marion Blois is leading tours of the National Arboretum for the Smithsonian Associates again this year. She will be doing an azalea tour on Sunday, May 3 and afterwards will give PWWS members and guests a special tour of Fern Valley. This will be a peak period of interest with wildflowers, ferns, native azaleas, and other spring blooming shrubs. Meet Marion at the entrance to Fern Valley at 1:30 p.m. For more information and carpooling, call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803.

## Catalogs at Library

A large collection of wildflower plant and seed catalogs is available at both Central and Potomac libraries. 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.

## BEEKEEPER'S SMART COURSE

The Beekeepers' Association of Prince William Co. is co-sponsoring "Advanced Beekeeping Smart Course" March 27 & 28 at No. Va. Community College, Manassas Campus. Friday hours are 7-9:30 p.m. (registration 6:00 p.m.) and Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Co-sponsors are Loudoun Beekeepers Assn., Beekeepers Assn. of No. Va., and Northern Piedmont Beekeepers Assn. Fee is \$22.50 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information call Bobbe Krueger, 754-9587 or Jean Chitren, 221-4489.

## Wildflower Garden Tours

Response to our tour of Marie Davis' garden was so encouraging that we've expanded the tour to three gardens this year.

Members Sandi Mueller, Nancy Arrington, and Jeanne Fowler will share their enthusiasm for wildflower gardening by opening their gardens on April 25 and 26 during Wildflower Week.

Visitors will see wildflowers growing in a variety of garden settings from natural and informal to structured and rather formal. They will see areas planted exclusively with wildflowers, wildflowers in extensive azalea and rhododendron plantings, and wildflowers combined with traditional garden perennials. Interesting path and border treatments, a variety of garden ornaments, and some examples of water gardening will give visitors ideas for their own gardens. All the gardens were "made from scratch" by the owners who have lived at their places from seven to twelve years. A gardener will be present at each garden to lead tours; refreshments will be served at one site.

The tour is free and open to the public. Visitors will drive to the gardens on their own anytime during the tour hours: Sat. April 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sun., April 26, 1-5 p.m. Rain date is the following weekend. A brochure for the garden tour and our spring wildflower walks will be mailed to members and friends during April.

The gardeners are working hard to get ready for the tour and they need help from other members: workers to help get the gardens ready, cookie bakers, and hosts and hostesses during the tour. Do your part to make this another successful PWWS event by offering your help: Roxetta Wyer 361-8615, Marie Davis 361-1626, or Nicky Staunton 368-9803, AND think about opening your wildflower garden next year!

## Bluebell Walk

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's annual Bluebell Walk will be held on Easter Sunday, April 19, at 2:30 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park. Guided walks can be scheduled for groups throughout "Bluebell Week," Sunday, April 19 to Sunday, April 26. Self-guiding pamphlets are available for individuals or groups who wish to walk without a guide during the week. The park is open daily, dawn to dusk. Call 528-5406 to schedule a weekday tour.



## PWWS PLANT SALE

Our plant sale will be Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Bethel Lutheran Church's parking lot, Sudley Rd. and Plantation Ln., Manassas.

Chairman Roxetta Wyer can use your help in many large and small ways:

- Sharing plants from your own garden
- Potting up plants donated by other members
- Setting up tables and arranging plants for the sale
- Assisting customers
- Serving as cashiers
- Helping with clean-up

In order to make this plant sale even better than past ones, please keep these guidelines in mind:

● If you have plants to share but no time to pot them up, let us know as early as possible so committee members can dig and pot.

● Pot up plants by April 25 so they will not wilt on sale day.

● Label plants with common name and, if you

can, with the botanical name. We've ordered 1,000 plastic labels just for the sale; call Roxetta and she'll get some to you.

● Get your plants to Roxetta before the sale. Call her or another committee member to have plants picked up or make arrangements to leave them at her house or with another committee member the week before the sale. If plants are delivered to the Church the day of the sale have them there by 7:30 a.m.

● We can't accept wild-collected plants, difficult species such as lady's-slippers, and invasive species such as thistles. If you're unsure about the appropriateness of a particular plant call Roxetta.

The sale has been our major fund raiser each spring since the chapter was organized and we're counting on your generous offers of plants and time again this year. Call if you can share plants or help in other ways and if you have questions or suggestions: Roxetta Wyer 361-8615, Marie Davis 361-1626, or Nancy Arrington 368-8431.

### Display at Library

Watch for Prince William Wildflower Society's educational display at Central Library during April. Nicky Staunton and Blair Christolon are coordinating arrangements.

### Davis Will Lead Walk

Marie Davis will lead Prince William Forest Park's wildflower walk on Sunday, April 12. Check the April Turkey Caller for time, or call the Nature Center at 221-2104.

#### PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

A Chapter of The Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

#### Membership Application

\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_ RENEWAL

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Check Membership Category</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10         | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15             |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25             | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50         |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 or over) \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family \$10      |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5             | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (groups) \$25 |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100        | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$250              |
- ☐ Corporate Sponsor \$125

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.

I give \_\_\_ I do not give \_\_\_ permission for my (our name(s), address and telephone number to be published in a chapter directory or exchanged with other related organizations.

## NATIVES FOR THE GARDEN

NANCY ARRINGTON  
Propagation Chairman



### Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

Good foliage plants such as wild ginger help sustain interest in the woodland garden beyond the great burst of color in spring. Its handsome heart-shaped leaves will last until frost in deep, rich, moist, acid to slightly acid soil in the shady garden. It can be massed as a ground cover, used as an edging plant along a path or trail, or interplanted with taller wildflowers.

Shade and moisture are the secrets to successful cultivation of wild ginger. It grows well in light, moderate, or deep shade, and strongly resents direct sun which can burn the leaves. Possible planting locations are beneath evergreens, on the north or west sides of the house, or in an area completely shaded by trees.

Plants will need constant moisture to remain attractive through the summer. Add large quantities of moisture retentive materials such as peat, well-rotted manure, or composted leaves to deeply-dug planting areas. Mulch plants well and water during summer dry spells.

In Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers Harry Phillips says wild ginger is a good indicator plant since its leaves are among the first to wilt at the beginning of a drought. The conscientious gardener sees this as a reminder/to begin watering.

You'll know your wild ginger is happy when it begins to spread as described by the late Sen. George Aiken in *Pioneering with Wildflowers*: "Creeping erratically along the ground as if it is not sure just where it is going, the Wildginger hesitates every few inches to send up its large, downy heart-shaped leaves."

Phillips suggests interplanting wild ginger with taller species such as Solomon's seal, cardinal flower, and bellwort, and as a textural contrast for clumping (not spreading) ferns such as cinnamon, maidenhair, and Christmas.

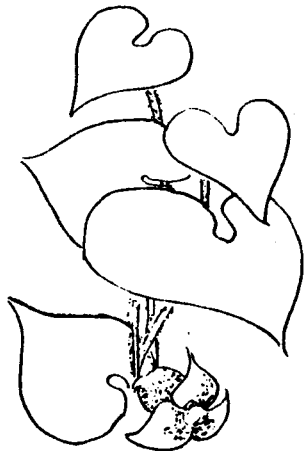
As with other shade-loving natives, a moist cold period/is required for good germination. Seed can be sown immediately after collection in a shaded outdoor bed or stored in moist whole-fiber sphagnum in a sealed container in the refrigerator for spring planting. Cuttings taken in late spring and summer root well in a mix of equal parts sand and peat.

Most wildflower gardening catalogs carry several species of ginger and *A. canadense* is usually available at PWWS's plant sale.

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#### PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE  
Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society  
P.O. BOX 83, MANASSAS, VA 22110



### Wild Ginger

(*Asarum canadense*)

MARCH MEETING: Monday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas