

# WILD NEWS

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

## JANUARY MEETING

### Wildflowers and Honey Bees

Monday, January 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Ln. & Sudley Rd., Manassas

Why is skunk cabbage important to bees? What secret do bees know about goldenrod? PWWS charter member and beekeeper Jean Chitren will answer these questions and many more with his program on the relationship between wildflowers and honey bees at our January 18th membership meeting.

Jean has been active in the Beekeepers Association of Prince William County for the past several years and has served as the organization's secretary and president. He has helped conduct workshops for beekeepers and participates in the Association's exhibit at the Prince William County Fair each year.

On Monday night you'll also hear about "bee rescues", one of the most interesting activities in which Jean and other beekeepers are frequently involved. Beat the winter blahs and join us for a look at the interesting world of wildflowers and honey bees.



## PWWS Winter Botany Workshop

Marion Blois will conduct our second annual Winter Botany Workshop on Saturday, February 27, 1-3:30 p.m., Manassas Campus, NVCC. See page 3 for details.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

A blue dot on your mailing label means you need to renew your membership. Use the form on page 3. If you're confused about your membership status, call Tom or Elaine Carrig, membership chairpersons, 791-3378.

## VWPS Winter Workshop

This year's workshop will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, 9:30 am-3 pm at the University of Richmond. Roundtable discussion topics are Working with the Highway Dept., Publicity, and Presidents and Vice Presidents. Members interested in any of these topics are urged to attend. Call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803, for info.

## NEXT MEETING

Our March membership meeting will be the usual third Monday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas.

## Native Plant Symposium

The U.S. National Arboretum will present "Native Plant Specialty Gardens—A Symposium on Creating Habitats and Haunts", Saturday, March 19, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. This one day symposium will explore the ingredients and methods necessary for creating aesthetically appealing habitat gardens.

Margo MacIntyre and Robert Gardener will discuss meadow habitats and bog gardens. Cole Burrell, returning from Minnesota, will talk about innovative uses of foliage for texture in shade gardens. Pennsylvania nurseryman, Albert Vick, Jr., will present some of his secrets for planting and managing pondside and aquatic gardens.

The \$50 registration fee includes a morning snack and lunch. For further information call the Arboretum Education Office, 202-475-4857.

## Display Is A Winner

Our new chapter display, featuring an attractive meadow garden exhibit, prepared by Nicky Staunton and Jenifer Bradford, won the education award and high praise from the judges at Centennial Garden Club's December flower show.

## Spring Events

Our wildflower garden tour is scheduled for April 30 and May 1 and will include the Bradford, Davis, and Louer gardens.

The plant sale will be held Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. till 12 noon at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas.

## WILD NEWS

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FROM THE 

## PRESIDENT

Nicky Staunton

As Bluebell seeds and rosetts of Lyreleaf Sage sleep under the snow, it is good to anticipate this next year together in the Prince William Wildflower Society. We are entering '88 with over 80 folks on our membership roll. One reason for exulting over our increased membership is that last year, half that number were "with us" to begin the new year. Another is, "squeaking wheels get the oil" — our representatives listen best when many of us speak as an organized group . . . no matter how reasonable our thoughts. Prince William still has much land to be nurtured for the native flora and we also can be helpful to our neighboring counties yet to feel the developers' touch to the land.

Some of you "old" members have yet to rejoin. We miss you. Some who receive this newsletter are "interested" persons . . . we need your support too. Why not sit down right now and send in your '88 membership commitment? Or, come to the interesting program by Jean Chitren on January 18th about "Wildflowers and Honey Bees," and join us that evening.

We have a special Winter Botany Workshop by Marion Blois again this year. Learning to enjoy and identify winter twigs, buds, leaves will help fill the time until we get back to blooms . . . gardens . . . hikes.

As you travel Prince William roads, if you notice land to be developed (zoning posters, etc.), please call Sandi Mueller or Nicky Staunton. We are still looking for persons to be our eyes and ears regarding county developemnt, in advance of the actual work. The old "who, what, where, when, how" are our questions. Please feed that data to us.

## Garden Wins Award

The wildflower garden at Locust Shade Park, Triangle, developed by Trowel Garden Club as a PWWS Adopt-A-Park project received a conservation award from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. PWWS member Jeanette Garrison who served as chairman and head gardener reports from her new address in Hague, VA, that a committee of Trowel members will continue to care for the garden.

# Winter Botany

MARION BLOIS

Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

Most of us have a favorite wildflower season — spring, summer or fall. However, most of us put away our identification books when winter arrives. If you do, you are missing a special time to enjoy a variety of plants in their winter forms. According to the **Atlas of the Virginia Flora** in Northern Virginia there are approximately 90 species of trees, 80 species of shrubs, (plus roughly 30 species that may be shrubs or small trees) 35 species of woody vines, 12 species of evergreen ferns, and 8 species of clubmosses to be explored and enjoyed this time of year. By January skunk cabbage hoods may be poking through the ice of swampy areas and the first hepaticas may bloom by late February in protected areas. In addition, mosses, lichens, many fungi, as well as the dried remains of many herbaceous flowering plants persist through the winter adding color and interest to the winter landscape.

Woody trees, shrubs, and vines in winter condition are often a challenge to identify. With some time, effort and good references on woody plants in winter condition, identification is possible and even fun. Three of my favorite references are: **Winter Tree Finder** by Watts and Watts, **Woody Plants in Winter** by Core and Ammons, and **Woody Plants of Maryland** by Brown and Brown. These references will help you identify and use woody plant characteristics such as leaf or needle

structure (if present), twig structure, bark color and patterns, fruits (if present), growth patterns, habitat locations, etc.

Identifying herbaceous plants in winter condition can be even more challenging than working with woody plants but is also well worth the effort. For these plants the presence of fruits (fleshy or dry), dried leaf structure, height of the plant, and habitat location are factors to be used in identification. **Weeds in Winter** by Brown is the most comprehensive reference I have found for this area of winter botany.

If you would like to learn more about winter botany, consider participating in the workshop I will conduct on Saturday, February 27, 1-3:30 pm, in the Science Lab (Room 305), Manassas Campus, NVCC. Weather permitting, there will be a short field trip to the campus nature trail to practice winter botanizing skills. Pre-register by calling Nicky Staunton, 368-9803, evenings or weekends. A \$2 fee covers materials including a copy of the **Winter Tree Finder** for each participant. Whether or not you attend the workshop, try to get out this winter and enjoy our native plants during a season you will find is not as bleak and barren as you may have thought.

## Master Gardeners

Prince William Co. Extension Service's 8-week Master Gardener course will be held Feb. 19—April 11 on Mondays (1-4 pm) and Fridays (9-12 noon) at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Cost is \$35. Call 335-6288 for an information packet.

### PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

A Chapter of The Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

### Membership Application

NEW  RENEWAL

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Check  Individual \$10  Family \$15  
Membership  Patron \$25  Supporting \$50  
Category  Senior (60 or over) \$5  Senior Family \$10  
 Student \$5  Associate (groups) \$25  
 Sustaining \$100  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.

## Natural Resources Newsletter

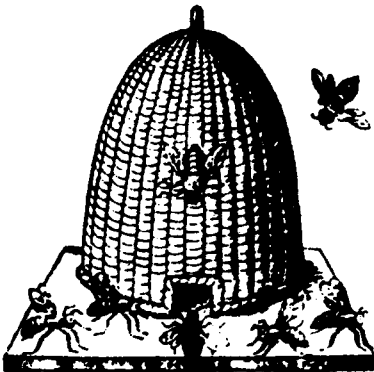
Virginia's Natural Resources Dept. publishes a quarterly newsletter "to provide an overview of the efforts of the Commonwealth's natural resources management agencies." If you'd like to be on the mailing list write to: Virginia Natural Resources Newsletter, 903 Ninth St. Office Bldg., Richmond, VA 23291.



### Help Virginia's Wildlife

The only pleasant aspect of paying Virginia income taxes is the fact that you can designate a portion of your refund to be used for the Non-Game Wildlife Fund. Just check the appropriate line on your return —you'll be supporting a very important conservation program.

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## Speakers Represent Chapter

Marion Blois will take her "Spring Wildflowers and Where To Find Them" slide program to the Maryland Native Plant Society. She will do an "Introduction to Botany" program for Arlington's Palisades Garden Club.

Marie Davis and Nancy Arrington will present the Chapter's "Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens" slide program at Occoquan Forest Garden Club's March membership meeting.

## Winter Bird Walk

Cardinals, white-throated sparrows, bluebirds, kinglets, juncos and bald eagles may be spotted on the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Winter Bird Walk at Pohick Bay Regional Park, Saturday, Feb. 27 at 8 a.m.

A park naturalist will help hikers identify winter birds. Participants should bring binoculars and wear good walking shoes. The hike is free, but reservations are required, 703-528-5406. To reach Pohick Bay Regional Park, take the Lorton exit off I-95 and follow signs to the park. The hike will begin at the nature trail entrance.



David & Nancy Arrington  
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