



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

ANNUAL MEETING

Around 30 members and guests, including special guest, VWPS president Mary Pockman, enjoyed a pot luck lunch and wildflower walks at our annual meeting at Locust Shade Park. Out-going PWWS president Nicky Staunton received a lovely engraved pewter plate from the chapter as a memento of her term as president.

Elaine Haug presented a certificate of appreciation to David Brickley for his efforts which resulted in Governor Baliles' Wildflower Week proclamation.

Everyone who attended the meeting received at least one door prize thanks to Jenifer Bradford who contacted very generous members and area businesses for donations.

Officers were elected for the coming two years: President, Brad Bradford; Vice President, Helen Walter; Secretary, Nancy Vehrs; and Treasurer, Jocile Johnson.

Thank You To Donors

On behalf of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society and our own chapter, Jenifer Bradford would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions toward the Gala Auction at Massanutten (state meeting) and the Door Prize Raffle at our annual meeting.

VWPS Auction: Nancy Arrington, Alden & Jenifer Bradford, Christa Kulbe, Nicky Staunton, Jane Sweeney, and White Oak Nursery.

PWWS Door Prize Raffle: Nancy Arrington, Alden & Jenifer Bradford, Jean Chitren, Margie Day of Two Days Gifts, Flower Gallery, Marion Blois Lobstein, Frances Louer, Nicky Staunton, Helen Walter, White Oak Nursery, Liz Wickens, Lenore Winfield, and PWWS.

A great time was had by all at both meetings and those attending came away with some beautiful and practical items. Thanks again to all who made these events such a success.

PWWS Board Meeting

All incoming and outgoing PWWS board members are urged to attend a board meeting on Monday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Church. This meeting has a dual purpose: to wrap-up 1987-88 activities and start-up 1988-89 activities.

We're Tops!

Thanks to Tom and Elaine Carrig, membership chairpersons, who called several times to remind members to renew, our chapter had the highest renewal rate, 84%, in the state for 1988.

Let's do even better this year! If you haven't sent in your renewal, **DO IT NOW**. You can use the envelope in your last VWPS **Bulletin** or the application contained in your PWWS annual meeting notice, or call the Carrigs, 791-3378, for a membership application.

NEXT MEETING The first meeting of our new membership year will be Monday, November 21, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas.

Society Has New Name

At the September 24 annual meeting VWPS members voted to change the organization's name to Virginia Native Plant Society effective November first.

Members Assume State Jobs

Congratulations to two PWWS members who were elected to state office at the recent VWPS annual meeting. Nicky Staunton will be president for the next three years and Jenifer Bradford will be publications chair.

Proposed 1988-89 Budget

Estimated Income:

Dues	\$ 500.
Plant Sale	1500.
Book Sales	200.
Miscellaneous	<u>100.</u>
Total	\$2300.

Estimated Expenses:

Postage	\$ 400.
Printing & Publications	900.
Honorariums & Gifts	200.
Meeting Expenses	150.
Displays & Education	300.
Books for Resale	100.
Plant Sale	50.
Sales Tax	100.
Wildflower Week	50.
Miscellaneous	<u>50.</u>
Total	\$2300.

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed budget, please call Treasurer Marie Davis at 361-1626.

WILD NEWS

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

FROM THE 

PRESIDENT

Nicky Staunton

If you feel PWWS has had an exciting history in its six years . . . you have one person to thank: YOU!

Your enthusiasm means you have been involved and know about "Wild News", informative programs on a wide range of subjects relating to wildflowers . . . bees, birds, habitat (such as "Bogs"), plant sales which gave you an opportunity to thin your flowerbeds and to give a home to new varieties of wildflowers in your life.

It means that you met the public at these plant sales, at the County Fair where we had educational displays on meadows and on conservation through a gardener's eyes. . . new members!

It means that you have trudged through a cold, damp spring woods to rescue trilliums and bluebells and much more from a farm being transformed into a development.

It means that you have walked alone along sites searching for an endangered species, all the while making new county records of flora in in Prince William for the Atlas of the Flora of Virginia.

It means you have readied your wildflower gardens for the public to visit and to learn that our friends from the wild can live with you at home in a beautiful way.

It means that you have taken time to know your representatives in your home legislative areas — city or county and in the state and federal governments to let them know how important it is to fund Endangered Species Acts and to preserve the natural habitats of Virginia's native plants.

It means that you took part in our Virginia Wildflower Celebration '88, as well as, all year long. We have learned that there isn't a month without some quiet flora/native plant beauty.

All of this means that without you, PWWS/VWPS would be static rather than the dynamic group we are, working for the preservation of Prince William's native plants.

It has been a privilege to work with each of you for the past two years. It has been a happy opportunity for me.



IRONWEED

Vernonia noveboracensis

MARION BLOIS

Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

During late summer and early fall, one of the loveliest wildflowers in our area is the magnificent ironweed. The striking flower heads of this graceful member of the composite family add color and interest to damp roadsides, pond and marsh banks, and damp fields. New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) is the most common species of this genus in our area. The genus name is in honor of William Vernon, an English botanist of the late 1600's and early 1700's who traveled widely in North America. The species name refers to New York where the plant may have first been collected. The range of this species is from Ohio and New York state south to Georgia. According to the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora* this species is found in virtually every county of the state.

Ironweed is a member of the Asteraceae or composite family with only disk or tubular flowers. (Many of the composites such as the daisy have both ray and disk flowers with the "petals" being the ray flowers and the disk flowers making up the center.) The purple tubular disk flowers are found in groups of 20-40 or more per head. Each individual flower has a five-lobed tubular corolla, five stamens, a pistil

with an inferior ovary, and a slender, thread-like style. Like other composites, the calyx (sepals) is the pappus which in this species is a purple double structure with outer short, narrow scales and inner long bristles. The fruits are achenes which are elongated, cylindrical, ribbed, and hairy. As in other composites, individual heads of flowers are subtended by leafy bracts that are called an involucre. Ironweed's involucre is bell-shaped or oblong with individual purplish green bracts, each with a long bristle-like tip arranged in a woven pattern. The individual heads are on short stems (peduncles) and are arranged in a flat-topped inflorescence pattern described as a corymbose cyme.

The rather coarse 3-6 foot tall stems of New York ironweed may range from roughish hairiness to smooth. The alternate leaves are 3-10 inches long, lanceolate with serrated edges and vary in their surface texture as do the stems. This perennial species has a well-developed root system.

Medicinal uses of ironweed by American Indians included making teas from leaves to treat female problems including relief from childbirth pain. Root teas were used to treat loose teeth and for stomach ulcers and hemorrhaging.

In Northern Virginia there are two species less common than New York ironweed: *V. glauca* (meaning blue-green), called broad-leaved ironweed, and *V. altissima* (*gigantea* in Atlas) and called tall ironweed. Ironweed grows with other colorful composites such as goldenrods, Joe-Pye, and various sunflower species bringing color and beauty at the end of summer.

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 Membership Category | <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 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor \$125 | |

Make check payable to V.W.P.S. and mail to :

Tom & Elaine Carrig, Membership Co-Chairmen
13305 Kahns Rd., Manassas, VA 22111

I wish to participate in the following:

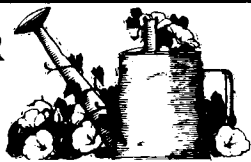
- ___ Promotion of legislation aimed at plant protection
- ___ Development of programs, displays, literature
- ___ Producing member publications ___ Photography
- ___ Stewardship of wildflower plantings/preserves
- ___ Native plant landscaping ___ Botanical surveys
- ___ Public speaking ___ Youth programs ___ Art
- ___ Plant rescue ___ Typing ___ Telephoning
- ___ Other _____

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



Ironweed

Vernonia noveboracensis

At 6-8' ironweed is a natural in a damp meadow, at the rear of a large sunny perennial bed, or at the edge of a stream or pond. Lacking all of these sites but determined to grow this beauty, I have "tamed" ironweed for a butterfly garden and a small perennial border. The secret, which works for other tall, late-blooming natives, is to cut plants back to 2-6" around the first of July. Plants then bloom at a height of 3-4'.

Ironweed prefers a damp sunny spot but will bloom well in partial shade and adapts to fairly dry garden soil where it will stay shorter and more compact.

Perennials that look good before and after blooming are much appreciated by gardeners. Ironweed's lanceolated, slightly rough 6-10" leaves certainly don't make it a beautiful foliage plant, but it is a fresh-looking, dark green filler that can hide unattractive

foliage of early bloomers as it waits for its moment of glory in late August and September.

Rivalling cardinal flower as one of our most brilliant natives, ironweed is especially dramatic when surrounded by lighter colors. In my damp perennial bed the pinks of seashore mallow (*Kosteletskya virginica*) and turtlehead lend good supporting roles as would Joe-Pye and obedient plant.

Purple is a favorite color of butterflies and ironweed is a good nectar source for swallowtails. In the butterfly garden it is beautiful with summer phlox, New England aster, and liatris. Exciting contrasts are obtained with rudbeckias, bidens, and goldenrods.

Ironweed can be propagated by division in the spring, by stem cuttings taken in June or July, and by seed sown indoors in late winter or outdoors most any time. Harry Phillips, in **Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers**, recommends sowing refrigerator-stored seeds outdoors in June or July. Seed can also be sowed outdoors in late fall for spring germination.

As interest in native plants for gardens continues to grow perhaps plant breeders will introduce a shorter ironweed. In the meantime, check wildflower mail-order catalogs for other nursery-propagated species including *V. angustifolia* and *V. arkansana*.

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