



PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY, A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

MARCH MEETING

Wildflowers Through Art

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

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

Sharon Morris-Kincheloe, colored pencil illustrator, will be our guest this month and will share with us her technique and her artwork. Sharon now lives in Millboro west of the Blue Ridge mountains, and is making a special 3½ hour trip to be with us. She is a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter and is a widely acclaimed Virginia artist specializing in native wildflowers and birds. Sharon asks that we all participate in this program by sharing our own artwork and ideas.

Tables covered with white paper will be set up to hold our display of wildflower related artwork. Please plan to arrive early to set out your contributions. Bring watercolor, pastel, oil, or other paintings, photographs, china, jewelry, needlework, silk or batik paintings, woodcarvings or any object with a wildflower theme, made either by yourself or others. A card giving details about the item or artist would be helpful.

VNPS Wildflower Celebration

This year's wildflower celebration includes the months of April and May to accommodate peak blooming periods throughout Virginia.

Events sponsored by different chapters will be featured in the upcoming VNPS *Bulletin*. Our own chapter activities are detailed inside. Get out this spring and join the wildflower celebration!

PWWS Board Meeting

The April PWWS Board of Directors meeting is Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. at the home of President Brad Bradford. Meetings are open to all members.

Virginia Tree Conservation

The Virginia Senate has passed the first tree conservation bill to make it out of the House of Delegates. The legislation allows localities to adopt ordinances to preserve historic and scenic trees. Delegate Jack Rollison, R-Woodbridge, introduced the bill which now awaits the governor's signature.

COMING

Mark your calendar for our next two meetings:

Mon., May 15 — Wildflower Photography

Mon., July 17 — Wildlife Rescue

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

The Bluebells of Bull Run

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's annual Bluebell Walk will be held on Saturday, April 15, and Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m. each day at Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville. Guided walks can be scheduled for groups throughout "Bluebell Week," Sunday, April 16, through Sunday April 23. Groups should make reservations at least two weeks early.

Bull Run Regional Park claims the largest stand of bluebells on the East Coast. Hundreds of acres of billowing blossoms carpet the low woodland for two weeks or so in mid-April. The annual flooding and overflow of the streams have helped to spread and nourish the bluebells and other wildflowers.

Self-guiding pamphlets are available. The park is open daily, dawn to dusk, and the entry fee is waived on weekdays until Memorial Day. Call 528-5406 to schedule tours. For information call 352-5908 (weekdays) and 631-0550 (weekends).

Gardening Program Presented

Members Marie Davis and Nancy Arrington have given our "Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens" slide program at Northern Virginia chapters of the Azalea Society and the Rock Garden Society this spring, and are scheduled for Town and Country Garden Club's March meeting and the Haymarket Womens Club's April meeting.

Meadow Planned At Park

Prince William Forest Park Ranger Beth Waldow plans to establish a meadow at a former picnic area in the park. She and a fellow ranger recently visited Jenifer Bradford to look over her file and scrapbook on wildflower meadows and for a tour of the Bradfords' meadow in its winter format. Beth will use only species native to the park in the meadow and in roadside areas she hopes to naturalize.

WILD NEWS

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Deadline for the May-June issue is May 1, 1989.

FROM THE 

PRESIDENT

ALDEN B. BRADFORD

On March 4 PWWS hosted the quarterly VNPS meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church. (A special thanks to Nancy Vehrs who served as hostess, baked her special goodies, ran off copies for members and generally made everybody feel welcome). As I listened to the other presidents describing their chapters, I realized that each chapter has a distinct style of operation. Some meet every month, some every two months, and some don't meet at all. Some have 15 people at a meeting and some have 5. The one thing we do have in common is that we all would like to increase our membership.

From Phoebe White's membership report, I learned that VNPS membership last year at this time was 664. As of February, 19, 1989, the membership stood at 687, with 391 non-renewals. In February of 1988 PWWS had 81 members, but this year we have dropped to 76 members, with 37 non-renewals. One of the goals of VNPS is to increase its membership to provide a greater resource of talent and funds.

We ourselves need people to plan educational programs for children and adults, to create slide presentations, to rescue plants, to lead field trips, and to work at Society and public events. Let's make our goal this year that every member recruits a member. Let's talk to our friends, neighbors, and relatives and spread the word of wildflower and native species preservation.

We are very fortunate to have Sharon Morris-Kincheloe with us this month from Blue Ridge Chapter. Let's give her a warm welcome with a big turnout — bring your friends.

Fern Checklist

A checklist of Virginia ferns has been compiled by Dorothy Bliss, VNPS Botany Chair and Professor Emerita, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg. The format is similar to that of checklists compiled by PWWS Botany Chair Marion Blois Lobstein. *Ferns and Fern Relatives of Virginia: A Checklist* will be available at our March 20 meeting for \$1.00 or you can send a check for \$1.25 to PWWS Books, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110 and a copy will be mailed to you.

Winter Workshop In Richmond

On Saturday, March 11, several PWWS members joined other VNPS members at a Winter Workshop held at the University of Richmond. The theme was "Tips and Techniques for Successful Field Trips". Cris Fleming, Education Chair, organized the event, Marion Blois Lobstein was co-leader, and Nicky Staunton handled the publicity. Other chapter members attending were Brad and Jenifer Bradford, Loren Staunton, Elaine Haug, and Karen Weir. Participants covered a 20-point checklist from planning, pre-trip, and follow-up phases in the lab and learned what to do and what not to do on two short field trips on the campus and beside the James River at Pony Pasture.

Walks At Great Falls

Marion Blois Lobstein leads wildflower walks every third Sunday, 10 a.m., at Great Falls Park. Meet at the nature center. Call Marion, 703-536-7150, for more information.

Native Plant Landscaping

The Native Plant Landscaping Conference at Cullowhee, NC, will be July 27-29. If you're interested in attending or would like more information, give your name and address to Nancy Arrington, 368-8431.

Wintergreen Wildflower Symposium

Wintergreen's annual Wildflower Symposium will be held May 13 & 14. Numerous wildflower walks and a variety of programs are planned. For a brochure and application, call 804-325-2200 or write to Spring Wildflower Symposium, Wintergreen, VA 22958.

VNPS members receive a 10% discount on the registration fee.

Canoe Trips

Elaine Haug will be leading canoe trips for Prince William Park Authority again this year. Scheduled are:

April 29, Veterans Memorial Park, Woodbridge, 4-6 p.m.

May 13, Veterans Memorial Park to Great Marsh at Mason Neck, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Call Elaine 670-2347, or Veterans Memorial Park at 491-2183, for fees and more information. Trips for May and the rest of the summer will be in the next newsletter.

Fourth Annual Garden Tour

This year's tour which includes three private gardens and a garden at Northern Virginia Community College, Manassas Campus, will be held (rain or shine) Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 7, 1 - 5 p.m.

Gardens featured this year will be the Ehrenberger family's city garden, Bev Scott's new woodland site off Davis Ford Rd., and a country garden with a pond and special emphasis on bird habitats belonging to Fran and Ken Bass. The wildflower garden at NOVA was designed and planted by Marie Davis.

Helen Walter, Chairman of this year's tour, needs help from members to get the gardens ready and to serve as hosts during the tour. Call her, 754-8806. and offer your time and energy.

The tour is free since it serves as a preview of our plant sale. A folder with a map will be mailed to members, area garden clubs, and visitors at past tours.

PWWS Wildflower Walks

Saturday, April 22, 9-11 a.m., Helwig Park

Meet at the Park Authority Headquarters located at Helwig, off Rt. 234 and Bristow Rd., Independent Hill. Look for early spring wildflowers such as bloodroot, toothwort, hepatica, and violets. The walk will be led by Elaine Haug, PWWS Survey & Records Chairman. Call her, 670-2347, for more information.

Saturday, April 22, 2-4 p.m., Balls Bluff

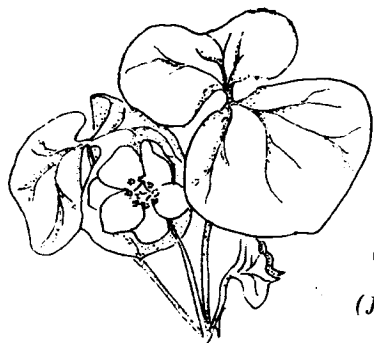
Meet at the Balls Bluff Cemetery at the park in Loudoun County. Leader Marion Blois Lobstein hopes to find twinleaf, featured in this issue of the newsletter, and other early bloomers. Call her, 703-536-7150, for directions and more information.

Saturday, May 6, 9-11 a.m., Locust Shade Park

Meet leader Elaine Haug at the entrance to the fitness trail at the park located on U.S. Rt. 1 south of Traingle. The walk will include a tour of our chapter's repository of plants salvaged during early rescues. Call Elaine at the above number for info.

Tree Facts

In Michigan State University's recent **Update Forestry** it was revealed that a tree over a 50-year lifetime generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion.



Twinleaf

(*Jeffersonia diphylla*)

MARION BLOIS LOBSTEIN
Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

If you have ever seen the beautiful and delicate flowers of twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) in early to mid-April, you may have mistaken it for bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). With closer examination you will soon realize this special wildflower is a different species. This rare (in our area) species is a perennial member of the Berberidaceae or barberry family as are the more common May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) and the less common blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*).

Twinleaf's buds and embryonic leaves appear in early April and the short-lived flower blooms before and during the early blooming period of bloodroot. Some botanists consider this species a spring ephemeral since there is an early burst of blooming activity and vegetative development. However, the fruits do not mature until mid-June and the leaves may persist until July. Twinleaf grows in rich woods with calcareous soils from New York into the Carolinas and west to Tennessee and Michigan. In Northern Virginia it is found in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties along the Potomac River.

The genus name *Jeffersonia* was assigned by Linnaeus in honor of Thomas Jefferson who was himself a fine amateur botanist. The species name *diphylla* meaning two-leafed describes the double wing-shaped leaf. Other common names are rheumatism root, yellow root, helmet pod, and ground squirrel pea which describe physical features of the plant or medicinal uses.

The solitary flower develops at the top of a several-inch tall scape or flower stem. The tight flower bud opens to reveal a 1-1½" flower with eight bright white petals, four sepals (which are shed early), eight stamens, and a pistil with a two-lobed stigma and a superior ovary. The very delicate flowers are vulnerable to wind and rain and

usually last only a few days. The flower which may have a slight scent produces nectar and is pollinated by various species of bees. The stigma matures before the anthers to insure cross-pollination.

Twinleaf's almost whimsical fruit is nearly as attractive as the flower. The 1" urn-shaped capsule opens along a groove under its pointed "lid" much like the top of a tea pot. It is thought that a gas known as ethylene builds up inside the capsule causing the lid to "pop" open at maturity. Once the lid is open the scape bends to one side so that the opening is tipped downward to allow the 20 or more seeds to tumble out. The handsome chestnut brown seeds have prominent elaiosomes which may attract ants which disperse the seeds.

The attractive leaves of twinleaf are bluish-green on the upper surface and lighter colored on the lower surface. A pair of immature leaves appear with each flower bud and unfurl after blooming. The 3-4" mature leaf has two wing-like segments which may be borne on a petiole that may reach 16-20" at maturity. Often clumps of plants growing together share a yellowish rhizome which has a shallow root system. During the photosynthetic period of the leaves, energy is stored in these underground stems. New plants can form asexually from these rhizomes as well as sexually from seed.

There have been numerous uses of twinleaf by American Indians and herbalists even into this century. The Cherokee Indians used it as a tea to treat dropsy and urinary problems and as external treatment of sores, ulcers, and other skin problems. The primary herbal use of twinleaf in the last century was to treat rheumatism and in the 1870's the yellow rhizome brought 7 cents a pound (a rich price for those times). One recipe for treating rheumatism called for soaking the root in grain alcohol, draining off the alcohol, discarding the root, and drinking the alcohol. Other uses by herbalists have included diuretic, antispasmodic, tonic, gargle for sore throats, to increase urine flow, to treat female cramps, and even to treat syphilis and mild cases of scarlet fever. At too high a dose, twinleaf extract may act as an emetic and cause vomiting.

Twinleaf may be locally abundant in areas where it is found but is usually rare. It certainly is not common enough to collect for herbal or any other use these days. In our area you can see it at Balls Bluff in Loudoun County, in areas near Point of Rocks, Virginia, and at the Great Falls Parks in Virginia and Maryland. This year, try to discover this beautiful spring perennial in early April. It is one of our rarer spring wildflowers and one of the most beautiful.

Seventh Annual Plant Sale

Our seventh annual plant sale will be Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. till noon in Bethel Lutheran Church's parking lot, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas. Roxetta Wyer, 361-8615, will chair the sale this year.

We can use your help in many large and small ways:

- Potting plants from your own garden
- Potting plants donated by other members
- Setting up tables and arranging plants the morning of the sale
- Assisting customers – serving as cashiers, help-with clean-up, etc.
- Buying plants and encouraging your friends to buy

In order to make this our best sale yet and to help cut down on sale day craziness, please keep these guidelines in mind:

If you have plants to share but no time to dig and pot them, let Roxetta know so committee members can get the work done.

- Pot up plants by April 29 so they won't wilt on

sale day. Call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431 or 368-9711, if you need pots.

• Let Roxetta know as soon as possible what plants you'll be bringing so our cultivation sheets can be complete. We can't accept wild collected plants, difficult or rare species such as lady's-slippers, or invasive species such as thistles.

• Please label your plants before sale day (call Roxetta for labels) with common and botanical names. If you need help with labeling call Roxetta so her committee can get the plants labeled.

• Make arrangements with Roxetta to drop your plants at her house or to take them to a central location or to have them picked up before sale day. If plants are delivered to the church the day of the sale, please get them there by 7:30 a.m.

Thanks to the generosity of our members the plant sale has been our major source of income (aside from memberships) since our chapter was formed and we're counting on you again this year. Call if you can share plants or help in any way. And remember that members get a 10% discount on plants!

REMINDER: In an effort to increase membership we can send two issues of our newsletter to prospective members. Send names to Wild News, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110 or call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431.

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Membership Application ___NEW ___RENEWAL

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone(s): Home () _____ Work () _____

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 _____

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 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 VNPS and mail to:

PWWS Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 83
Manassas, VA 22110

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



Green-and-Gold

(*Chrysogonum virginianum*)

Green-and-gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), an excellent native perennial and a very fashionable groundcover has been promoted by nurserymen who have named selections such as 'Mark Viette' and 'Allen Bush', available at area nurseries or through mail-order catalogs. This spring blooming composite is native to forests throughout Virginia and most of the mid-Atlantic and southeastern U.S.

In early April one-inch star-shaped bright golden yellow blossoms appear nestled in oval-shaped fuzzy basal leaves. As the season progresses leafy stems grow to 8-12" and the plant literally flowers non-stop until the heat and drought of July and August slow it down. Even then it blooms sporadically and fall's rain and cooler weather produce more flowers. New basal foliage develops as winter approaches and mild weather brings blossoms as late as November and as early as February.

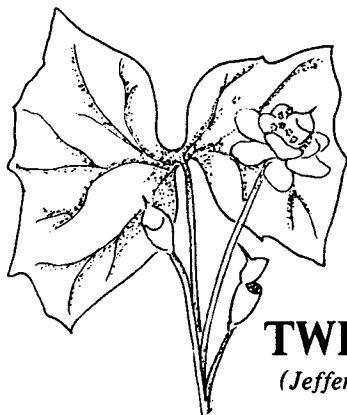
Green-and-gold has many uses in the garden. It can be massed as a groundcover, used as an edging, or combined with other wildflowers such as columbine and wild blue phlox. It is a good plant to fill in bare spots left by bulbs and spring ephemerals since clumps expand through the growing season.

This outstanding native is easy to grow and becomes more vigorous in the garden than in the wild. It needs a fertile, well-drained soil and blooms better with some sun though it needs shade during mid-day. It adapts fairly well to dry shady areas. In **Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers** Harry Phillips says it benefits from disturbance and mature clumps should be divided every other year or simply moved to a different spot in the garden.

In addition to division, new plants can be grown from mallet cuttings (stem including a piece of root) and seed propagation is possible but collection is difficult and germination is uneven. It self-sows prolifically where it's happy and seedlings are easily moved.

A more southern variety, *Chrysogonum virginianum* var. *australe*, trailing green-and-gold, grows flat on the ground and blooms for only three weeks or so in early spring. It spreads by above-ground stolons and fills in to make a solid groundcover which is especially nice on a slope and around rocks. It seems to tolerate more sun and drier soil than our own native. Both will be available at our plant sale.

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TWINLEAF

(*Jeffersonia diphylla*)

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