

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

## JULY MEETING

# Prince William County Soils

Monday, July 16, 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Ln. & Sudley Rd.

Diana Dutton, Executive Director of the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District, will discuss Prince William County Soils at our July meeting. Diana will explain how different types of soil in different regions — coastal, piedmont and mountain — of the county determine the kinds of plants that grow there naturally. She will also talk about how to prevent soil erosion, a primary concern of the Soil and Water Conservation District. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about local soils from an excellent speaker who is also a long-time member of our Chapter.

## Registry Program

VNPS has begun a registry program to call attention to special wildflower habitats throughout Virginia. The purpose of this program is to heighten awareness and appreciation of native plants on the part of the landowner and the general public. Land can be privately or publicly owned.

PWWS registrar Elaine Haug is planning to propose several sites: wildflower trails at Prince William Forest Park and Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, a site on Carriage Ford Road near Nokesville and Manassas Battlefield Park's meadows. Call Elaine, 670-2347, if you know of a site that might be registered, or mention it to any board member.

## Board Meeting

The August PWWS Board of Directors meeting is Monday, August 20, 7:30 p.m. at the home of president Brad Bradford. Let him know, 594-3422, if you can't be there. Board meetings are open to all members

## Butterflies & Wildflower Habitats

Nancy Arrington and Marie Davis will present a slide program, "Wildflowers for Butterfly Gardens", at Central Library, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 17. The following Tuesday, the 24th, at 7:30 p.m. Nicky Staunton will give VNPS's "From Beach to Blue Ridge: The Habitats of Virginia Wildflowers". All PWWS members and friends are invited.

Nancy and Marie are using Nicky Staunton's beautiful slides of butterflies and wildflowers taken over the past few years and on a recent trip to Callaway Gardens in Georgia. Nicky's slides are also used in the chapter's woodland garden show.

## Next Meeting

Our PWWS Annual Meeting will be Saturday, September 15, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Frances and Phil Louer near Haymarket. You will receive details with the announcement in Aug.

## Fern Identification & Propagation

U.S. National Arboretum Botanist Peter Mazzeo will lead a fern identification walk through Fern Valley Monday, July 23, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Celia Rutt will give a Fern Propagation slide lecture/demonstration Wednesday, August 1, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon in the Arboretum's auditorium. Celia is Horticulturist at the State Arboretum of Virginia and Propagation Chair of the Piedmont Chapter. Both programs are free. Register by calling 202-475-4815.

## Coordinator Needed

A coordinator is needed for PWWS's door prizes at our annual meeting and for the VNPS auction at the annual meeting. If you can help, please let Brad Bradford know.

## NVCC Fall Marsh Ecology

Marion Blois Lobstein will again be offering a marsh ecology class this fall semester at the Manassas Campus of NVCC. Bio-195-01M Topics in Marsh Ecology is a one-credit course that will combine lecture and field exploration of marshes in our area. The meeting dates are Saturday September 8, Sunday September 16, Saturday October 6, and Saturday October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A weekend trip to Chincoteague is scheduled for October 27-28.

The first Saturday session will include an introductory lecture at the Manassas Campus followed by field trips to freshwater marshes at Huntley Meadows, Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge, and Teddy Roosevelt Island. The weekend trip to Chincoteague will highlight freshwater, brackish water, and salt water marshes during water fowl migration season. For additional information, call Marion Lobstein at 368-0184 (NVCC-Manassas) or (703)536-7150 at home in Arlington.

## WILD NEWS

is published six times a year by Prince William Wildflower Society, a Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110. Permission is given to use material with credit to source.

President, Alden B. Bradford, 594-3422

Editor, Nancy Arrington, 368-8431

Artist, Nicky Staunton, 368-9803

Deadline for the Sept.-Oct. issue is Sept. 1, 1990.

FROM THE 

## PRESIDENT

**ALDEN B. BRADFORD**

The days and weeks of Summer are moving on and August and September will soon be here.

August brings the County Fair from the 10th through the 18th. Our theme this year is The Natural Lawn and Alternatives to Chemical Lawn Care. The display will show how groundcovers shrubs, wildflowers, mulched beds, and meadows can occupy space once filled with just grass. Jennifer and Claudia Thompson Deahl are preparing the display. Jeanne Endrikat will be calling volunteers to man the booth during fair hours. Please be generous with your time.

September brings our annual PWWS meeting and pot luck picnic and the VNPS annual meeting. Our meeting will be held at the home of Frances and Phil Louer on Saturday, September 15. The Louers have a lovely rolling acreage filled with infinite varieties of azaleas and wildflowers. Plan your calendar accordingly to "be there".

Again we are fortunate to have the VNPS annual meeting occurring close by — this time in Airlie near Warrenton. It will be a one day meeting on Saturday the 22nd with tours at Airlie and Virginia Natives, Mary Painter's nursery in Hume, during the day and a silent auction and banquet with guest speaker at the Middleburg Tennis Club in the evening. Take advantage of the proximity of these events and attend. Next year's meeting may literally be hundreds of miles away!

VNPS has created a Registry Program whereby the owner of a piece of land containing native plants worth preserving, such as unusual or rare stands of wildflowers, may register it through PWWS or VNPS. The land will be checked annually to see how the stand is and if the owner plans any major changes. There is no written agreement between the two parties so the owner is free to do with the land as he/she wishes. The only thing encouraging the owner to keep the land unchanged is his/her pride of having a beautiful and unspoiled site. PWWS and other chapters have joined the venture to find sites worthy of being registered. Do you know of such a site in Prince William County?

Jennifer and I are off to "the cabin" for two weeks but will be back by July 16 to hear Diana

*Continued on page 3*

# Checklists of the Flora of Northern Virginia

MARION BLOIS LOBSTEIN  
Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

**Spring Wildflowers of Northern Virginia: a Checklist; Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Virginia: a Checklist; Summer and Fall Wildflowers of Northern Virginia: a Checklist** — you may have seen copies of these checklists or seen them mentioned in **Wild News**. If you have not seen or purchased any or all of these checklists or even if you have copies, you may have wondered why such lists are developed and how they might be used.

In 1974 when I moved to the Northern Virginia area from Clapel Hill, North Carolina, I quickly discovered the Audubon Naturalist Society Bookstore in Georgetown, D.C. During one of my early visits I found and purchased a checklist for birds of the Washington, D.C. area. When I asked if there were similar checklists for wildflowers of our area, the salesperson told me plant checklists were not available, but suggested that I work on such checklists!

As I learned more about our flora of Northern Virginia, I was increasingly disappointed that there was no way to know what species of plants had been documented for our area. In the early 1980's I discovered the first edition of the **Atlas of the Virginia Flora** which lists and gives Virginia county maps of all species of vascular plants collected and documented by herbarium specimens. I began making my own handwritten lists of plants for the Northern Virginia area. In the spring of 1985, the first version of **Spring Wildflowers of Northern Virginia: a Checklist** was published. In 1986 the second edition of the **Atlas** was published and based on this, I revised the spring wildflowers checklist and developed **Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Virginia: a Checklist** which were both published in 1988. Meanwhile, I began working on rough drafts of a summer and fall wildflower checklist which led to the publishing of **Summer and Fall Wildflowers of Northern Virginia: a Checklist** in spring 1990. Many people helped in developing these checklists: Marie Davis, Elaine Haug, Nicky Staunton, Gary Fleming, Cris Fleming, and the NVCC summer wildflower class of 1989, and many others. The publishing of all the checklists

has been supported by the PWWS and profits from the sales have gone to the Chapter.

The checklists are being carried presently by the Audubon Naturalists Society Bookstore, Great Falls Park, Virginia bookstore, the Arbor House at the National Arboretum, Fairfax County parks, One Good Tern nature bookstore, Blandy Farm bookstore as well as local VNPS chapters.

How can these checklists be used? When you use a wildflower or woody plant guide such as the Peterson, Newcombe, or Audubon guides and arrive at a tentative identification of an unknown plant, the checklist can confirm whether or not that species has been documented for the Northern Virginia area. Also if you can identify the family or genus of that unknown you can check the checklists to see what species have been found in our area and also when these should be blooming if it is a flowering plant. The checklists can be used to keep a "life list" of plants in our area that you have seen as well as to keep notes on where and when you found the plant. If you are new to this area, these checklists can be used to help you know what species of flowering plants are found in our area. You may want to send copies to other plant enthusiasts in other parts of the state or country to let them overview our flora. They can be helpful if you are taking a wildflower or tree identification course for our area.

The checklists are a convenient 3-3/4 x 7 inch pocket-size format that can be tucked into a pocket or in a wildflower guide. Each checklist is divided by monocots and dicots with the plant families and the genera and species along with common names arranged in alphabetical order. **Spring Wildflowers** lists 66 monocot species in 8 families and 484 dicot species in 63 families. **Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines** lists 164 woody species in 50 families, and **Summer and Fall Wildflowers** lists 115 species in 17 monocot families and 980 dicot species in 85 families. The first two checklists are \$2.00 each and the third one is \$3.00. Copies may be purchased at PWWS meetings or ordered by writing to PWWS, Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110.

---

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued

Dutton discuss Prince William County Soils. While in Monterey, on July 10, Jennifer will present the Society's slide program on Virginia Habitats to the garden club there. I plan to attend.

This will be a wonderful introduction to the Society for Highland County residents because the Shenandoah Chapter is based closeby in Harrisonburg. See you all on the 16th.

## NATIVES FOR THE GARDEN

NANCY ARRINGTON  
Propagation Chairman



### Summer Phlox

*Phlox paniculata*

Our native summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) also called garden phlox and fall phlox is the parent of cultivated phloxes appearing in gardens over the past 100 years including currently popular cultivars 'Star-fire' and 'Bright Eyes'. In **Perennial Garden Plants** Graham Stuart Thomas gives it his highest rating — a dot and a star meaning he considers it a really good garden plant with exceptional or unusual beauty of flowers. The species occurs throughout Virginia and is native to most of the eastern U.S. growing in rich moist soil in partially shaded woods and along roadsides and streambanks.

Summer phlox forms a clump 2-4' across with bright magenta pink flowers in 4" dense, branched panicles on stalks 3-5' tall. Flowering begins in early July, and though the individual 5-petaled flowers are short-lived, a mature clump will bloom through the summer and into fall. In early June some stems can

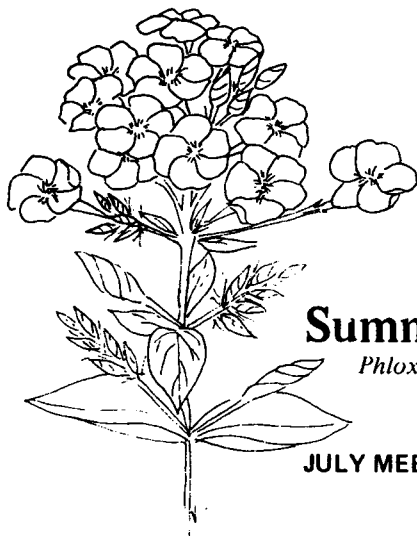
be cut back to varying heights to extend the blooming season and deadheading encourages flowering.

In the garden summer phlox needs a deeply prepared soil rich in organic matter, plenty of water during the growing season, and at least half a day of sun. Plants are susceptible to powdery mildew which can be lessened by watering early in the day and at the base of plants to avoid wetting the foliage. An application of organic fertilizer in early spring and again just before flowering will pay off in additional flowers. Regular applications of compost or rotted manure will keep the soil friable and nutrient-rich. Mulch to conserve moisture.

This native perennial is a long-time favorite border plant and is always recommended for butterfly gardens. It combines nicely with other pink and purple natives that require the same growing conditions such as purple coneflower, purple beebalm (*Monarda media*), New England aster, and ironweed. These companions are also good butterfly nectar plants. Its pink is a good contrast for the many yellow sunflowers and goldenrods of late summer and fall.

Since plants produce very few seeds division is the easiest propagation method and when done every 3 or 4 years in the fall keeps plants healthy and productive. Seed needs a moist, cold period for germination and can be sown outdoors in fall or stored in damp peat moss in the refrigerator for 4 weeks and then sown in flats.

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY  
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society  
P.O. BOX 83, MANASSAS, VA 22110



### Summer Phlox

*Phlox paniculata*

**JULY MEETING:** Monday, July 16, 1990, 7:30 p.m.  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Ln. & Sudley Rd., Manassas