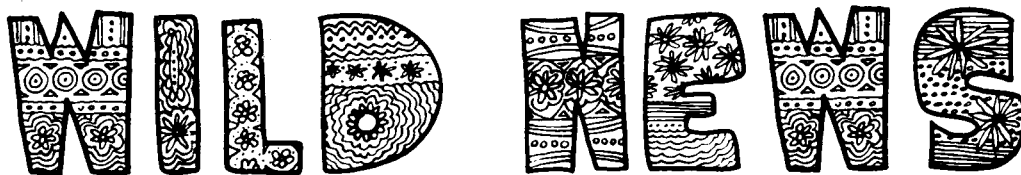


MARCH-APRIL 1991



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

MARCH MEETING

Bat Appreciation & Conservation

Monday, March 18, 1991, 7:30 pm

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

Our March membership meeting will feature a program on bats and their role in the ecosystem and our role in their survival. Jim Pomeroy, naturalist at Hidden Pond Nature Center in Fairfax County, will help us appreciate bats as valuable plant pollinators, seed dispersers and consumers of vast numbers of insects including mosquitos. Their population is dwindling as the hollow trees and caves they roost in are being destroyed along with other wild habitats. As homeowners we can help slow their decline by putting up bat houses just as we've helped the Eastern bluebird with our bluebird houses. Bring a guest to our program to learn how we can contribute to the survival of these interesting creatures.

PWWS Wildflower Walks

Sunday April 21, 2-4 pm - Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair, will lead a walk to see the many early spring wildflowers at Balls Bluff in Loudoun Co. For more information call Marion at 536-7150.

Sunday May 5, 2-4 pm - Nancy Herwig, PWWS Education Chair, will lead a walk to see the spectacular trillium display at Blue Mountain near Linden in Fauquier County. Carpools will meet at 12:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church. Call Nancy for details, 754-2328, or Claudia Deahl, 754-9235.

Cardinal Flower

Virginia Wildflower of the Year

Our newly published cardinal flower brochure will be mailed to members in the *Spring Bulletin*. Non-members may request a copy by sending a business-size SASE to PWWS, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110. This beautiful wildflower will be one of the many hardy plants available at our May 11 plant sale.

1991 Wildflower Celebration

Our Virginia Wildflower Celebration runs through the months of April and May. Events sponsored by all VNPS Chapters will be featured in the *Spring Bulletin*. Our own chapter activities are detailed inside.

NEXT MEETING

The May 20th membership meeting will be at Bethel Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m. Ruth Smith will present a program on "Edible and Medicinal Uses of Native Plants".

● DUES ARE DUE

A red dot on your address label means your membership has expired or will expire before the next issue of our newsletter. Please use the enclosed form to renew - we want you to stay with us. Call Marie Davis, Membership Chair, 361-1626, if you have any questions about your membership.

Area Programs

Plant Propagation – Thursday, April 18, 6:30-9 pm and repeated April 20, 1-4 pm, Blandy near Boyce. \$25 for non-members, \$20 for members. Info: 703-837-1758.

Sharing Nature with Children – an all-day workshop for teachers, recreation and youth group instructors, and parents, April 11, at Blandy. Register by mailing check for \$30 to VAEE, c/o Council on the Environment, 202 N. 9th St., Suite 900, Richmond, VA 23219. Info: 703-837-1758.

1991 Meeting Programs

All membership meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church except the September annual meeting which is held on a Saturday at a time and place to be announced.

May 20 "Edible & Medicinal Uses of Native Plants",
Ruth Smith

July 15 "Wildflowers for Butterfly Gardens",
Nancy Arrington

September Annual Meeting, TBA

November 18 "IPM", Ed Milhous

Wintergreen Symposium

Wintergreen's eighth annual Wildflower Symposium will be held May 17-19 this spring. The weekend includes walks to see wildflowers, ferns, mushrooms and birds. Indoor programs cover many related topics. For information and a brochure, call 804-325-2200, Ext. 391, or write to Wintergreen, P.O. Box 706, Wintergreen, VA 22958.

WILD NEWS

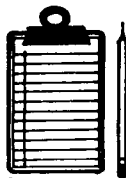
is published six times a year by Prince William Wildflower Society, a Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110. Permission is given to use material with credit to source.

President, Claudia Thompson-Deahl, 754-9235

Editor, Nancy Arrington, 368-8431

Artist, Nicky Staunton, 368-9803

Deadline for the May-June issue is May 1, 1991.



FROM THE PRESIDENT CLAUDIA THOMPSON-DEAHL

Going batty getting ready for spring? Then you will be all set for this month's program on bats. Come and hear more about these fascinating mammals and find out how to make a bat house to attract some of these insect eaters to your own yard.

Spring is in the air! Hepatica and green and gold are in full bloom in some areas. Columbine and bloodroot leaves are popping up and other wildflowers are just beginning to poke out of the ground. Look for these beautiful spring ephemerals - I think this is one of the most exciting times of the year. If you would like to know more about what you can find on the forest floor, come to one of our spring wildflower hikes. One will be on April 21st at Balls Bluff and led by Marion Lobstein. The second walk will be on May 5th at Blue Mountain near Linden, led by Nancy Herwig. Both walks will be on a Sunday afternoon from 2-4 pm.

Don't forget about our winter workshop on Saturday, March 16th, in Richmond. The important topic of "Ways That Habitats of Our Native Plants Can Be Protected" is especially timely in our county with so many proposed new developments.

Take advantage of the many opportunities in our chapter to get involved in what interests you. Whether it's the upcoming fund-raising plant sale, garden tours, hikes or programs, come and participate with us.

April Board Meeting

The April Board of Directors meeting will be held Monday April 15, 7:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church. Meetings are open to all members.

1991 North Carolina Wildflower

Eared coreopsis (see back page) is the North Carolina Botanical Garden's 1991 Wildflower of the Year. To request a copy of their brochure and a packet of seed, send a business-size SASE to Wildflower 1991, NCBG, Box 3375 Totten Center, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375.

Proposed By-Laws Changes

The following proposed amendments to our chapter by-laws will be voted on at the May membership meeting. If you have comments about the proposed amendments or would like a copy of the current by-laws, call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431.

Throughout change Executive Committee to Board of Directors and Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society to Virginia Native Plant Society.

Article I, Section 1 - Delete Fauquier County.

Article III, Section 2 - Delete "coinciding with the fiscal year . . ." and leave to read "Membership shall be on an annual basis."

Article V, Section 1 - Change "as the membership may designate" to "as the Board of Directors may designate".

Article VI, Section 2 - Change to read "The chairpersons of standing committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors".

Article VII, Section 5 - Change to read "The President shall make appropriate reports of Board of Directors meetings to the membership".

Article VIII, Section 4 - Change to read "The Board of Directors shall approve in advance all non-budget expenditures exceeding \$50".

Article IX, Section 1 - Change from "five (5)" to "three (3) candidates for the three at-large memberships on the Nominating Committee . . ."

Section 3 - Change "to October 31" to "through October 31".

Section 6 - Change to "The President shall appoint with the approval of the Board of Directors . . ."

Article X, Section 5 - Change "five (5) candidates" to "three (3) candidates for the three (3) at-large memberships . . ."

Bull Run Bluebell Walk

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's annual Bluebell Walk will be held Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park. Self-guiding pamphlets are available at the park which is open daily, dawn to dusk. Weekday group tours can be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis by calling 528-5406. To reach Bull Run Park take Rt. 66 to the Centreville exit and follow signs to the park. For information call 631-0550.

6th Annual Garden Tour

This year's tour will be held (rain or shine) Saturday, April 27, 10 am - 5 pm. and Sunday, April 28, 1 - 5 pm. Our gardens this year range in size from a large country place to a small townhouse garden.

Frances and Phil Louer's 5-acre garden near Haymarket, open for our 1988 tour, continues to grow and expand with new plantings of azaleas, wildflowers, and other perennials. Roxetta and Russ Wyer's Peabody Street garden in Manassas features sunny and shady borders and island beds planted with wildflowers, daylilies, hostas, ferns and other plants. Joann Misontoni's townhouse garden, designed and planted by Marie Davis, is an all-season garden containing wildflowers, shrubs, and a fern-garden in an intimate, enclosed setting.

Helen Walter, Garden Tour Chair, needs help from members to get the gardens ready and to serve as hosts during the tour. Call her, 754-8806, and offer your help.

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

Area Wildflower Walks

- Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair, leads walks each third Sunday at Great Falls Park, Virginia. Spring dates are March 17, April 21, and May 19. Meet at the visitors center at 10 am. Info: Marion at 536-7150.
- Walks through Fern Valley at the U.S. National Arboretum are scheduled for the following Saturdays: March 23, April 6, April 20, May 4, and May 18. Meet at the entrance to Fern Valley at 11 am. Info: 202-475-4815.
- Weekend wildflower walks are held at Prince William Forest Park near Triangle. Call 221-7181 for times and dates.
- Reston Association will sponsor walks at noon on April 26 and May 24 at the Soapstone Wildflower Trail. Info: 437-9580.

Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens

Marie Davis will do our "Wildflowers for Woodland Gardens" slide program as part of a wildflower gradening program sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority on March 16. The same program will be presented for members of the Reston Garden Club on April 2.



TOOTHWORT

Dentaria laciniata

MARION BLOIS LOBSTEIN
Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

Cutleaf toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*) is one of the few members of the mustard family (Brassicaceae) to be found in our deciduous woods from mid-March into May. This perennial species is a spring ephemeral which disappears by late May. Cutleaf toothwort grows in rich, moist deciduous woods from western Quebec and Vermont south to Florida and Alabama and west to Kansas.

The genus name, *Dentaria*, is derived from the Latin term "dens" meaning tooth which refers to the rhizomes which have a toothed appearance. The species name, *laciniata*, means "slashed" and refers to the irregular toothing of the leaves. Other common names are crinkleroot (referring to the appearance of the rhizome), purple-flowered toothwort (referring to the variation in flower color), and pepperroot (referring to the peppery taste of the rhizome of this and other species of toothwort).

The flowers of this species are borne in a loose terminal cluster of 12 or more on flowering stems or peduncles that are 3/4-1" long. Each 1/2-1" long flower has four green sepals, four white petals that are usually tinged with pinkish-lavender, 6 stamens with 2 being shorter than the other 4, and a pistil with an elongated style. The scentless flowers secrete nectar that attracts

bees and syrphid flies that are the primary pollinators.

The 3/4-1 1/2" elongated narrow fruit (characteristic of many species of the mustard family) is called a siliqua. There are approximately 6 small brown seeds within each fruit.

Cutleaf toothwort is 7-15" tall with three whorled leaves developing roughly two-thirds the way up the stems. These leaves are usually deeply divided into 3 to 5 segments whose margins may be sharply toothed to almost entire. There may even be some purple tinging on the young leaves. The petioled leaves are 2-4" wide.

The light-colored pungent rhizome is 5-7" long and often has a beaded appearance. The fibrous roots of the rhizome are shallow. The rhizome is a horizontal underground stem that stores energy gained during the brief period of March to May photosynthesis and saves it for the next spring's burst of vegetative growth and flowering. As with other spring ephemerals, the leaves and above-ground stem of toothwort generally senesce, or die back, by late May. The leaves of a few individual plants may persist into summer.

A less common species, the slender toothwort (*D. heterophylla*), also grows in the Northern Virginia area. Its flowers are very similar to those of cutleaf toothwort, but there are only 2 (rarely 3) opposite toothed leaves halfway up the stem as well as a basal toothed leaf.

Various American Indian tribes as well as modern native plant food enthusiasts have used the peppery rhizome in various food preparations. It can be substituted for horseradish according to some native plant food enthusiasts. However, as with other native plants, please leave toothwort plants you find growing in the woods for yourself and others to enjoy in years to come. Feast on this plant with your eyes only!

Landscaping with Natives

Two native plant landscaping conferences will be held this summer:

- The 8th annual conference held in Cullowhee, NC will be July 25-27, and will focus of plants native to the southeast. For information, write to Sue DeBord, Office of Continuing Education and Summer School, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723.
- A new conference will be held in Millersville, PA, August 15-17. This one will focus on plants of the mid-Atlantic and northeastern regions. For information, write to Grace Evans, Continuing Education, 104 Dilworth Hall, Millersville University, Millersville, PA 17551.

Area Plant Sales

In addition to our chapter plant sale, wildflowers will be available at these sales:

Friends of the State Arboretum at Blandy, Saturday May 11, 10am to 4:30 pm and Sunday May 12, 12-4:30 pm. Info: 703-837-1758.

Countryside Garden Club, Saturday April 27, 9 am-12 noon at the home of Phyllis Teels, 8119 Shane Ct. Info: Phyllis at 791-4359.

Potowmack Chapter, VNPS, Green Spring Farm Park, Annandale, Sunday, May 12. Info: Gerry Pratt, 703-323-1094.

Landon School, Bethesda, MD, May 3-5, 10 am - 5 pm. Info: 301-320-3200.

9th Annual Plant Sale

Our ninth annual plant sale will be Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m. till noon in Bethel Lutheran Church's parking lot, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas. Nancy Vehrs, 368-2898, will chair the sale this year.

We need your help to make this year's sale as successful as the past eight have been. Large and small ways of helping include:

- 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 during the sale
- Buying plants and encouraging your friends to come and buy.

Please keep these guidelines in mind:

- Pot up plants by April 21 so they won't wilt on sale day. Call Nancy Vehrs, 368-2898, or Nancy Arrington, 368-8431, or Marie Davis, 361-1626, if you need pots.

- Let Nancy Vehrs know as soon as possible what plants you'll be bringing so our cultivation sheets will be complete. We don't sell wild-collected plants, difficult species such as lady's-slippers, or invasive species such as thistles.

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

- Use a good loose potting soil that drains well. Add plenty of organic matter to purchased top soil or your own garden soil. We have a good supply of excellent potting soil available from Nancy Vehrs or Nancy Arrington.

- Make arrangements with Nancy to drop off 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.

- Remember that members get a 10% discount on plants purchased.

If you'd like a complimentary copy of our newsletter and a membership brochure sent to a prospective member please let us know: PWWS, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110, or call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431.

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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 _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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:

Membership Chair
P.O. Box 83
Manassas, VA 22110

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



Eared Coreopsis

Coreopsis auriculata

Eared coreopsis (*Coreopsis auriculata*) is a very desirable low growing native for sun or part shade. In addition to its bright spring flowers, clumps of 1-1½" long ovate leaves form an evergreen ground cover. Unlike some other coreopsis species that may be biennial or short-lived perennials, this is a hardy long-lived perennial.

Documented in neighboring Stafford County in the **Atlas of the Virginia Flora**, eared coreopsis is native to rich woods and thickets from Virginia south to Florida and west to Kentucky and Louisiana.

The genus name, *Coreopsis*, comes from the Greek word *koris*, a bug, and *-opsis* meaning resembles because the seeds look like ticks, hence the general common name, tickseeds. The species name, *auriculata*, refers to some of the rosette leaves which are lobed or eared at the base, a characteristic which gives this species its common name.

This low maintenance perennial will grow in ordinary garden soil, but will spread faster in soil that has

been enriched with organic matter. Plants are fairly drought-tolerant after becoming established in the garden.

The deep golden yellow 1½-2" daisies begin blooming on slender 12" stems in late April and continue through most of May. Plants will bloom into early summer if spent flowers are removed. The color is a bit on the orange side and should be kept away from pinks and lavenders.

Plants spread by runners or stolons and make an excellent edging for the front of a sunny perennial border and are effective fillers among taller plants. They're good companions for other sun loving natives such as sundrops, butterfly-weed, blue star and spiderwort.

Eared coreopsis is an exciting plant to use in a shade garden. The bright color can be used to draw attention to remote corners of the garden. Good shade plants to use with it are green and gold, columbine, and wild ginger. The fragile looking flowers are lovely with ferns. Along a shady path in my garden it grows with an ajuga that has purplish-green leaves to form a ground cover for a grouping of leucothoes with purple tinged leaves — an unusual and interesting combination of colors and textures.

Plants are easily propagated by division in spring or fall. Seed can be sown in an outdoor bed any time during the growing season or indoors in late winter. A high percentage will germinate in a week or so. Plants will be available at our spring sale.

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



Toothwort

Dentaria laciniata

MARCH MEETING: Monday, March 18, 1991, 7:30 pm
Bethel Lutheran Church, Sudley Rd. & Plantation Ln., Manassas