



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

## 10th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Picnic

JOINT MEETING WITH THE POTOWMACK CHAPTER

12 Noon, Sunday, Sept. 27, 1992, Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, Clifton

This year's annual meeting will be a 10th anniversary celebration held jointly with our friends and neighbors in Potowmack Chapter. Festivities will begin at 12 noon with a walk at Hemlock Park led by Martha Slover, PWWS conservation chair and a naturalist at the park.

We will have a short program at 1:00 featuring brief historical sketches by past presidents of both chapters. At 1:45 each chapter will hold separate business meetings (see article this page about our new slate). At 2:00 we will regroup for a picnic. Bring a dish (salad, vegetable, main) to share. The Society will furnish beverages, bread, dessert, plates, cups and utensils.

Let's have a great turnout – annual meetings are always fun and this one is a special anniversary. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park is located off Yates Ford Rd. (Rt. 615) near Clifton. If you've misplaced the directions that were included in your annual meeting notice, call Claudia Thompson-Deahl, 754-9235, or Nancy Arrington, 368-8431 to find out how to get there.

### President-elect Injured Alternative Slate Proposed

Our president-elect Helen Walter was seriously injured in a recent automobile accident. Because a lengthy recovery is expected the PWWS Board of Directors has proposed an alternative slate of officers to be voted on at the September 27 annual meeting:

President - Nancy Vehrs (vice president on original slate)

Vice president - Claudia Thompson-Deahl (current president)

Secretary - Jeanne Endrikat (no change)

Treasurer - Marie Davis (no change)

We send Helen best wishes for a quick recovery and encourage members to send her get-well cards (see President's column for address).

### October Board Meeting

The October Board of Directors meeting will be the third Monday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. In-coming members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. As always, all meetings are open to chapter members.

### NEXT MEETING

Our November membership meeting will be on the usual 3rd Monday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Ted Scott, VNPS conservation chair, will present a program on invasive plants.

## Proposed 1993 Budget

Nov. 1, 1992 – Oct. 31, 1993

### RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$ 700.
Plant Sale	1,600.
Book Sales	50.
Miscellaneous	<u>150.</u>
Total	\$2,500.

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Postage	\$ 500.
Printing	750.
Gifts & Honoria	300.
Programs	150.
Salable Books	100.
Plant Sale Exp.	100.
Sales Tax	100.
Education	350.
Wildflower Week	100.
Registry Program	<u>50.</u>
Total	\$2,500.

## Park Authority Activities

**Four-Hour Canoe Trip** – 8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 17, Lake Ridge Park, 494-5288. Fee of \$15 per person or \$20 per couple must be paid a week in advance.

### Morning With the Birds –

8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, Ben Lomond Park, 361-7126

8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 17, Locust Shade Park, 221-2158

\$3 fee for each 2-hour class; bring binoculars and a bird book

### Fall Foliage Walks –

8 a.m., Saturday, October 10, Ben Lomond Park, 361-7126

8 a.m., Saturday, October 10, Locust Shade Park, 221-2158

\$3 fee for each 1-hour walk

## WILD NEWS

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Deadline for the Nov.-Dec. issue is Nov. 1, 1992



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

CLAUDIA THOMPSON-DEAHL

I would like to express my deep concern for Helen Walter who was to be our next president. She was in a serious car accident and is currently hospitalized. We wish her a speedy recovery. Get-well cards can be sent to her home address, 2539 Youngs Dr., Haymarket, VA 22069.

Ken Bass deserves great credit for setting up the wetland exhibit at the Prince William Co. Fair. Thanks, Ken, for all your time, plants, and expertise on that project. Also, thanks to everyone who spent time at the fair answering questions and letting other people know about us. White Oak Nurseries generously loaned us the pools Ken used in the exhibit.

The fall flowers have been fantastic! I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and take a walk to enjoy the splendor of this season. The much maligned goldenrod, butterfly-ladened Joeye and abundant tick-seeded sunflowers have been putting on a real show.

The annual meeting for the Virginia Native Plant Society was filled with field trips to interesting places and informative programs. I'm looking forward to returning the hospitality when our chapter hosts the 1993 meeting here next fall. It's going to be a lot of fun and a lot of work to make all the necessary arrangements and we need your help. Please let any board member know how you can participate. The auction items that you donated helped to make this year's auction a success – thanks for your generosity.

Nicky Staunton and I spoke at the Sept. Board of Supervisors meeting in favor of keeping the access to the Occoquan River at Old Spriggs Rd. open to the public instead of giving this 5-acre parcel to the company developing the site. The area is rich in biodiversity and Elaine Haug found three species not previously documented for Prince William County. The board deferred its decision.

Please come to our joint chapter annual meeting on Sunday, September 27. It will be held with our neighboring Potowmack Chapter to celebrate our tenth anniversary. Let's have a good turnout!



## Sunflowers and “Sunflower-like” Relatives

MARION BLOIS LOBSTEIN  
Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

This time of year, from late summer into early fall, many of our fields, meadows, and roadsides are ablaze with the bright yellow of true sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.) and other sunflower-like species. These are all members of the Asteraceae or composite family. Each flower is not just a single flower, but rather a composite head of flowers. The outer petal-like flowers are the ray flowers and are varying shades of yellow. The center flowers are tubular or disk flowers and are yellow in most of these species but may be a darker color. On the back of the flower head is a leafy cup or involucre that is made up of leafy bracts. The following is a list of sunflower and related species in the Northern Virginia area along with their common names and blooming dates:

- Bidens aristata*, Tickseed sunflower, Aug-Oct
- B. bipinnata* -Spanish needles, Aug-Oct
- B. cernua*, Nodding bur marigold, Aug-Oct
- B. coronata*, Tickseed sunflower, Aug-Oct
- B. discoidea*, Small beggar-ticks, Aug-Oct
- B. frondosa*, Beggar-ticks, sticktight, Aug-Oct
- B. laevis*, Larger bur-marigold, Aug-Oct
- B. polylepis*, Tickseed sunflower, Aug-Oct
- B. tripartita*, European tickseed, Aug-Oct
- B. vulgata*, Common beggar-ticks, Aug-Oct
- Helianthus angustifolius*, Narrow-leaf sunflower, Aug-Oct
- H. annuus*, Common sunflower, July-Sept
- H. atrorubens*, Purple-disk sunflower, Aug
- H. decapetalus*, Thin-leaved sunflower, Aug-Oct
- H. divaricatus*, Woodland sunflower, July-Sept
- H. giganteus*, Giant sunflower, Aug-Oct
- H. grosse-serratus*, Saw-tooth sunflower, Aug-Oct
- H. hirsutus*, Hirsute sunflower, July-Oct
- H. laetiflorus*, Showy sunflower, Aug-Sept
- H. laevigatus*, Smooth sunflower, Aug.
- H. maximiliani*, Maximilian's sunflower, Aug-Oct
- H. microcephalus*, Small-headed sunflower, July-Sept
- H. mollis*, Gray sunflower, Aug-Oct

*H. occidentalis*, Western sunflower, July-Aug  
*H. strumosus*, Pale-leaved sunflower, July-Sept  
*H. tuberosus*, Jerusalem artichoke, Aug-Oct  
*Helianthus helianthoides*, Ox-eye, June-Sept  
*Silphium trifoliatum*, Whorled rosinweed, July-Sept

*Verbesina alternifolia*, (Actinomeris alternifolia), Wingstem, July-Sept  
*V. occidentalis*, Crownbeard, July-Oct

The *Bidens* species in our area are broken up into several broad groups: tickseed sunflowers, bur marigolds, beggar ticks, and Spanish needles. Members of this genus have flattened fruits called achenes that have hard outer coverings and barbs or bristles on the ends of the fruits for dispersal. The bracts forming the involucre are in a double row. In the *Helianthus* or “true” sunflower genus, fruits are also achenes (that develop only from the disk flowers) but lack the barbs or thistles. The bracts of the involucre are in a single row in this genus. Ox-eye (*Helianthus helianthoides*) resembles the true sunflowers but has achenes that develop from both ray and disk flowers. In the whorled rosinweed (*Silphium trifoliatum*) the leaves are in whorls in groups of threes. Also, the achenes are formed from the ray flowers only and have a winged edge. Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia* or *Actinomeris alternifolia*) and crownbeard (*V. occidentalis*) both have winged stems but wingstem has alternate leaves, and crownbeard has opposite.

Details of the structure of the ray and disk flowers, structure of the involucre, vegetative characteristics of the stem and leaf structure as well as habitat information are possible points to be considered in identifying individual species of these groups. Both the Peterson *Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeastern/Northcentral North America* and the Newcomb's *Wildflower Guide* are excellent sources for identifying most of these species. Identifying these fall composites is often a challenge but is well worth the time invested.

## Local Wildflowers in Stamp Book

Congratulations to Marion Lobstein who has two photographs in the book that accompanies the new wildflower postage stamps. A rue anemone photo was taken at the NVCC Manassas Campus nature trail, and the bluets were photographed at Manassas National Battlefield Park.

## Thanks to Fair Volunteers

A special "thank you" goes to Ken Bass who designed and set up our attractive wetland exhibit at this year's Prince William County Fair. He furnished all materials (except pools which were loaned by White Oak Nurseries) including the plants, got everything in place for opening day, and then dismantled the exhibit at the end of the fair.

Thanks to Claudia Thompson-Deahl who set up our PWWS display board and prepared handouts. Thanks to Jeanne Endrikat for scheduling volunteers, getting passes to them, and taking down our display board.

And thanks to volunteers who hosted the exhibit during peak visiting periods: Kathy & Don Ehrenberger, Martha Slover, Martha & Ralph Smith, Janet Vest, Tiana Camfiord, Phil & Frances Louer, Sandra Sheriff, Nancy Vehrs, Helen Winn, Helen Walter, Mary & Bob Sigl, Tracy Johnson, Nicky Staunton, and Sharon Kirkpatrick.

## Book Added to Library

An updated copy of the National Wildflower Research Center's *Wildflower Handbook* has been purchased for our chapter library.

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P.O. BOX 83, MANASSAS, VA 22110



**Giant  
Sunflower**  
*Helianthus giganteus*

## Fall Wildflower Course

This one-credit course at NVCC Manassas Campus will give students and overview of the common groups of fall-blooming plants. Much of the class time will be spent in the field identifying plants. Classes will meet Wednesday, October 14, Monday, October 19, and Wednesday, October 21 from 4:30 to 6:45 p.m., on Saturday, October 17 from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., and on Sunday, October 18 from 1:30 to 5:15 p.m. For info call 703-257-6643.

## Arborfest: Gardening for the Future

This free program will be held, rain or shine, Sunday, October 18, 1-5 p.m. at the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy. Ian Robertson will speak on organic methods for landscape care and Holly Schmizu from the National Botanic Garden will showcase new and interesting plants. Demonstrations and information on options for homeowner composting of yard waste are scheduled. New gardening products, raffles, food, and children's programs are part of the program. Take this opportunity to clean our your garden storage area — the arboretum will accept used green and black plastic pots and flats for recycling.

**ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, September 27, 1992, 12:00 noon**  
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, Clifton