

WILD NEWS

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

No. 98-01

January-February 1998

JANUARY MEETING

MEMBER SLIDE SHOW

7:30 p.m., Monday, January 19, 1998

Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Lane and Sudley Road, Manassas

As has become a winter tradition, the January membership meeting will feature slides of members' trips, projects, and activities over the past year. All members are encouraged to bring slides to share. For further information, call President Helen Walter at 330-9614.

New Editor

This issue of the *Wild News* marks the end of an era. Nancy Arrington, founder of the Prince William Wildflower Society and seemingly editor-for-life of the *Wild News*, has decided to step down. On behalf of the entire Society, I thank her for her 15 years of newsletters. If anyone merits a break, she does. However she did promise to continue her popular "In the Garden" column in future newsletters. As VNPS Horticulture Chair she contributes articles to the VNPS *Bulletin* so her writing and expertise are much in demand.

You will also note that the format of the newsletter has changed. Once I learn to use new software, the newsletter may return to the familiar format complete with illustrations. Thank you for your patience.

As editor, I welcome contributions from the general membership. If you'd like to share botanical or nature-oriented experiences with fellow enthusiasts, this is your forum! Deadlines for future issues are the first of every other month. Please consider making a literary contribution.

Classes Offered - "Northern Virginia Environmental Studies - The Nature Nearby"

PWWS, the Prince William Natural Resources Council, and Nature's Wonder World, Inc. are pleased to offer a series of 4-hour environmental workshops in the spring. Topics and instructors are as follows:

Backyard Birds and Beyond, James Waggener;

Grasses, Dr. Paul McCawley;

Spring Wildflowers, Marion Lobstein;

Mushrooms and Other Fungi, Dr. David Farr;

Insect and Plant Relationships, Cliff Fairweather; &

Butterfly and Plant Relationships, Alonzo Abugatta.

The cost for each workshop is \$25/members, \$30/non-members. Watch your mailbox for a flyer on the series and a registration form. For further information contact Education Chair Kim Hosen at 703-490-0455.

- Nancy Vekns

From the President - Helen Walter

Coffee drinker alert! Recently, I've read several articles describing the destruction of habitat for migrating songbirds as agribusiness takes over coffee production. Traditionally, coffee is produced on small farms beneath a forest canopy, providing habitat for a rich variety of bird species. These refuges are being destroyed all over the tropics as forests are cleared for large, mono-cropped chemical-dependent farms using high levels of pesticides and fertilizers. Colombia is the worst offender, with most of its coffee grown on large monoculture plantations. But in Mexico, 90% of all coffee is still grown on traditional farms of 10 acres or less, the majority owned by indigenous people. Most brand-name coffee is Colombian, but Fresh Fields, Starbucks, and Green Mt. Coffee all sell Mexican and other organic coffee, so we do have a choice here.

Yeah, I know American housecats are probably a bigger threat to songbirds than Juan Valdez. That's an ethical dilemma I haven't worked out yet. Thankfully, Guido and Muon retired from active hunting years ago and are content to watch the birds from the kitchen window.

Watch your mailboxes for information about our upcoming spring workshops, described elsewhere in this issue. Education Chair Kim Hosen has done an extraordinary job planning a wonderful variety of environmental workshops led by some outstanding local naturalists. I'm going to take in as many as I can.

Most of you probably saw in the paper that Fish and Wildlife has decided to proceed with plans for a new five million dollar visitor center at the Woodbridge Refuge on the worst possible site for bald eagles and other birds of prey. They are planning for a visitor count of 30 to 40 thousand people a year. Some refuge! But they don't have a funding source for the five million yet. To be continued . . .

At the other end of the county, roads and development are the hot-button issues. Local opposition to the western bypass is still strong as VDOT continues to push it. Officials at the Manassas National Battlefield Park are negotiating

with VDOT over options for a Rt. 29 bypass around the park so both Rt 29 and Rt. 234 can be closed within park boundaries. All those years I lived on Bull Run Mountain, I depended on Rt. 234 to get to classes at the community college, so I wonder how this will impact people at that end of the county. I hope our county officials can make good on their new commitment to restrict further development at that end of the county. We need to leave a few green spaces both for wildlife and our own sanity.

- Helen

SPRING BOTANY COURSE AT NVCC

The Manassas Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College is offering General Botany in the Spring Semester of 1998. This informative four credit course will be offered at 4:30-7:15 p.m. on Tuesdays (lecture) and on Thursdays (lab). The course will provide students with a hands-on approach to learning about the life cycles of plant and plant-like groups, how these organisms solve life problems by understanding their structures and functions, basic ecological relationships of these groups, the origin and evolutionary relationships of these fascinating life forms, and the potential use of plants in the biotechnology field. Field work will familiarize students with major groups of spring-blooming plants. PWWS Botany Chair, NVCC Associate Professor of Biology Marion Lobstein will teach both lecture and lab. For more information call 703-257-6643 or 703-257-6605.

WILD NEWS is published six times a year by the Prince William Wildflower Society, a Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 20108.

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Editor, Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898

Deadline for the March-April issue is March 1, 1998. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St, Manassas, VA 20110-3671.

WILDFLOWER WORD SEARCH

P	I	N	K	L	A	D	Y	S	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	A	B
U	C	D	B	S	E	O	T	Y	S	S	U	P	E	H	F	I	G
R	J	L	L	K	M	R	O	N	E	L	P	P	A	Y	A	M	A
P	P	G	O	L	D	E	N	R	O	D	Q	B	R	T	S	S	U
L	W	D	O	V	X	W	A	Z	V	I	O	L	E	T	T	Y	B
E	E	E	D	C	F	O	D	I	J	G	M	U	H	E	L	D	K
C	N	E	R	W	I	L	D	F	L	O	W	E	R	Q	O	A	P
O	S	W	O	R	S	F	A	T	E	U	L	B	Y	U	M	E	V
N	P	L	O	D	W	L	I	X	A	Z	D	E	Y	B	I	H	C
E	O	E	T	L	A	A	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	L	L	E	B
F	R	W	E	F	G	N	Y	I	A	H	L	L	J	L	K	L	K
L	D	E	M	O	P	I	D	N	Q	T	S	R	S	E	W	T	T
O	N	J	V	U	V	D	X	E	W	Y	S	I	Z	R	E	R	A
W	U	C	E	O	B	R	D	F	L	Q	R	E	I	U	E	U	H
E	S	J	L	N	L	A	K	M	O	I	R	P	U	A	D	T	Q
R	T	S	U	X	Z	C	V	Y	T	R	O	U	T	L	I	L	Y
A	E	C	D	B	C	O	L	U	M	B	I	N	E	F	B	H	G

Find the wildflowers hidden in the puzzle. Words appear across, up, down, backwards, and diagonally. The word WILDFLOWER has been circled as an example.

White Flowers:

- Aster*
- Bloodroot
- Clover*
- Daisy
- Mayapple
- Pussytoes
- Turtlehead*

Purple Flowers:

- Purple Coneflower
- Violet*

Red/pink Flowers:

- Cardinal Flower
- Columbine*
- Laurel
- Milkweed
- Pink Lady's Slipper

Yellow Flowers:

- Dandelion
- Goldenrod
- Sundrops
- Trout Lily

Blue Flowers:

- Bellflower
- Bluebell
- Bluet
- Blue Star
- Iris*

Orange Flowers:

- Jewelweed

*May also be other colors

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Green Spring Gardens Park in Annandale is offering a Winter Lecture Series on Sundays from 2-3 p.m. Each lecture will feature specialty nurseries of the mid-Atlantic region which serve as sources for hard-to-find plants. Lectures which may be of interest to native plant lovers include:

January 25, Co-Owner Bob McCartney of South Carolina's Woodlanders, Inc., a grower of southeastern and Asian trees, shrubs, and perennials.

February 15, Robert Popham of Fairweather Gardens of Greenwich, New Jersey.

March 1, Sally Kurtz of Water Ways Nursery in Lovettsville, VA.

March 15, Mary Painter, founder of the Virginia Native Plant Society, and a grower of a wide variety of native perennials ferns, and grasses at Virginia Natives in Hume, VA.

For further information, call Green Spring at 703-642-5173.

MARCH MEETING

At press time, Charles Smith, Program Chair, was awaiting a confirmation from the speaker for the March meeting. Mark your calendar for March 16, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. and watch the next edition of the *Wild News* for details.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

All members are welcome to attend the PWWS Board meeting on Monday, February 16, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. Spring activities will top the agenda.

VNPS WINTER WORKSHOP

"Appalachian Spring - Celebrating the Eastern Deciduous Forest" is the topic for this year's VNPS Winter Workshop in Richmond on Saturday, March 14, 1998. Watch your mail for a brochure in the next edition of the *VNPS Bulletin*. Anyone interested in carpooling can call Nancy Arrington at 368-8431 or Nicky Staunton at 368-9803.

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exp. 10/98

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Please check address and membership expiration date for accuracy. Send corrections to PWWS, attn Membership Chair.

☞ JANUARY MEETING: Monday, January 19, 1998, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas



Complete Set
1998