

WILD NEWS

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

Number 98-05

September-October, 1998

September Meeting

This month's general membership meeting is the Annual Meeting, complete with an election of officers, potluck picnic and walk, and will be held on Sunday, September 27, 1998 at 1:00 p.m. at the Friends of Bull Run Headquarters at the base of Bull Run Mountain. Members received a separate meeting notice, ballot, and directions in the mail earlier this month. For further information call President Helen Walter at 703-330-9614.

Refuge Now Open

The new Ocoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge is now open on weekends: Saturdays, noon to six p.m., Sundays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nicky Staunton reports that grasses are blooming and the tickseed sunflowers and butterflies are sparkling!

Volunteer for a fall shoreline cleanup at the site on September 26 (raindate Oct. 3) by calling Jim Waggener by September 19 at 703-497-0506. A formal dedication is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 17 in conjunction with National Wildlife Refuge Week.

VNPS Annual Meeting

If you hurry, it's not too late to register to attend this year's VNPS Annual Meeting hosted by the Potowmack Chapter in Alexandria the weekend of September 18-20. Great field trips, including one to our new Ocoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, are scheduled during the day and exciting speakers will be featured in the evenings. Look for the registration form in the August *Bulletin* or print the form from the VNPS web site at www.hort.vt.edu/vnps/regis-98.html.



From the President -
Helen Walter

Hard to believe this is my last newsletter column as president, but next issue you should be seeing Gina's byline. I'm so pleased that she agreed to run as president. With her background and personality, PWWS should be in good hands. She has an outstanding team with the chapter's first president Nancy Arrington as vice president, and Diane Flaherty and Marie Davis remaining as secretary and treasurer. I'll still be around, but I have a new grandchild due Thanksgiving, so guess what I'll be doing! Given the determination of some in this county to pave over our remaining wild places and replace them with strip malls and townhouses, we still have our work cut out for us "conserving wildflowers and wild places." We've managed to conserve some wonderful natural areas from Bull Run Mountain to the Potomac, but it will be a constant challenge to prevent them from being girdled with development and its attendant gridlock. Our supervisors need our encouragement to keep the new rural crescent from being nibbled away with zoning exceptions, so we have something left for my new grandchildren.

Those Nearby Nature workshops have been well worth getting up so early on a Saturday morning. I took David Farr's mushroom workshop in July and learned to identify chanterelles in the wild. Next morning, pregnant daughter Janet and I took our dogs for a long walk along the river and I came home with my pack full of fresh chanterelles. Rob wouldn't touch them, claiming somebody had to be left to call 911, and the rest of the family was sure I was going to die. Well, I didn't, but they were almost worth dying for,

they were that good, plus I have the satisfaction of answering "I'm not dead" when people ask me how I am. No, I won't tell where I found them.

Charles Smith's July program on creating habitat for birds in your back yard gave me a lot to think about as I plan what to do with my new yard. Much as I love to watch the birds at my feeder, he made a good case for providing them with natural food sources instead of encouraging them to cluster at feeders where the risk of spreading disease is so much greater. Many of our native plants provide seeds and berries, and dead trees are a great source of bugs as long as they don't threaten your roof.

See you all on Bull Run Mountain
September 27.

-Helen

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Original Artwork by Nicky Staunton.
Deadline for the Nov-Dec issue is Nov. 1, 1998. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St., Manassas, VA 20110-3671 or e-mail to nvehrs@ibm.net.

Green Spring Gardens Park Plant Sale

The fall Green Spring Garden Day Plant Sale is slated for Saturday, September 12, 1998 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.. The Potowmack Chapter will sell propagated wildflowers and master gardeners will issue free horticultural advice. This Fairfax County garden park is located in the Alexandria area at 4603 Green Spring Road. Come support our sister chapter and bring home some choice plants for your native plant garden! For further information call 703-642-5173.

Free Nature Walks at ANS

Participate in free walks offered by the Audubon Naturalist Society at their Webb Sanctuary in Clifton on Saturday mornings:

October 3: Nature Walk, 10 a.m. - noon. Explore the Sanctuary's fields, streams, and woods to discover the secrets of local plants and animals.

October 17: Beginner Birder Walk, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Get started in bird watching with an experienced birder and learn a pastime for a lifetime.

Call 703-803-8400 by 3 p.m. the Friday before the walk to RSVP. Meet in front of the sanctuary office, at the end of Chestnut Street, off Main Street in Clifton.

Free Booklet on Caterpillars

Ask for a free copy of *Caterpillars of Eastern Forests*, publ. FHTET-96-34, by writing to

Lisa Cross, USDA Forest Service, 180 Canfield St., Morgantown, WV 26505.

Calling All Photographers

Martha Slover is looking for photos of late-summer/fall blooming wildflowers which are typically offered for sale at the annual PWWS plant sale in May. She will use these photos to create plant display labels to help gardeners who may be unfamiliar with the flower. She can use any goldenrod (labeled by species), fall-blooming asters, evening primrose, ironweed, boneset, Joe pye weed, or gentians. Bring photos to an upcoming meeting or call Martha at 703-331-0302.

National Public Lands Day

Your public lands are in need of your helping hands! Join the National Park Service, the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and thousands of volunteers across the country as they celebrate National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 26. Volunteers are needed at Great Falls Park to rebuild and rehabilitate park trails and to learn about the environmental benefits of the work. For your hard work you will receive a National Public Lands Day T-shirt and the pride of knowing that you contributed time and labor for improvements the National Park Service could not have otherwise accomplished. To volunteer, call 703-285-2966.

Call for Wildflower Seeds

PWWS members are being asked to collect wildflower seed for a meadow that will be installed at Sky Meadow State Park near Linden. If collecting seed from the wild, be sure to obtain the landowner's permission and collect a small amount of seed from several populations. Seed can be collected from home gardens as long as the plants are species and not cultivars. Call Propagation Chair Nancy Arrington at 703-368-8431 with questions. She will serve as chapter coordinator and can deliver the seeds to the park.

Requested seeds are as follows:

Asclepias incarnata, swamp milkweed
A. tuberosa, butterfly weed
A. syriaca, common milkweed
Aster lateriflorus, calico aster
A. erocoides, heath aster
A. linariifolius, stiff aster
A. pilosus, white heath aster
A. umbellatus, white topped aster
Chelone glabra, turtlehead
Coreopsis lanceolata, lance-leaved coreopsis
C. tripteris, tall coreopsis
C. verticillata, threadleaf coreopsis
Echinacea purpurea, purple coneflower
Eupatorium coelestinum, blue mist flower
E. perfoliatum, common boneset
E. purpureum, Joe pye weed
Helenium autumnale, sneezeweed
Liatris graminifolia, grass leaf blazing star
L. spicata, spiked blazing star

L. squarrosa, plains blazing star
Lobelia cardinalis, cardinal flower
L. siphilitica, great blue lobelia
Monarda fistulosa, bergamot
Oenothera fruticosa, sundrops
Penstemon digitalis, foxglove beardtongue
Pycnanthemum incanum, hoary mt. mint
P. tenuifolium, narrow-leaved mt. mint
Rudbeckia hirta, black-eyed Susan
R. triloba, three-leaved black-eyed Susan
Salvia lyrata, lyre leaf sage
Silphium perfoliatum, cup plant
Solidago rugosa, rough stemmed goldenrod
Vernonia noveboracensis, NY ironweed

Native Grass Seeds Also Sought

The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department Of Agriculture needs seeds of local native grasses for research plots at the University of Maryland, as described in the August, 1998, VNPS *Bulletin*. Spokesperson Gwen Meyer said that they hope to eventually produce seed that will be included in east coast wildflower mixes. Contact Nancy Arrington, 368-8431, for a list of the desired species as well as special envelopes for the collected seed.

October Board Meeting

The PWWS Board will meet on Monday, October 19, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church in Manassas. All members are welcome. Call current President Helen Walter at 703-330-9614 for more information.

STALKING THE WILD AMARANTH - BOOK REVIEW by Gina Yurkonis

My own imagination can usually come up with plenty to get depressed about, so a book with the subtitle "Gardening in the Age of Extinction" just didn't sound like a good read to me. But then, I kept hearing about *Stalking the Wild Amaranth* and how it was the next *Noah's Garden* and other high recommendations. I then heard the author, Janet Marinelli, speak at the Millersville Native Plant Conference and enjoyed her immensely. Having dinner with her at the conference (one of the major perks) and not to mention sharing a bathroom really made me pick up her book, title prejudices aside. The book is filled with remarkable insights. I can't compare it to *Noah's Garden*, however, because there is little how-to or method about it. It is more a treatise on the philosophies and history of gardening and some surprising predictions for its future. The author is certainly well-read. She quotes frequently from figures from Plato to Aldo Leopold. One of the parts which really grabbed my attention compared racism and nativism and cites the "outbreak of native plant mania in Nazi Germany."

Ms. Marinelli also writes quite a bit about systems and trying to replicate small ecosystems in our own gardens - a garden can be not only pleasing, but ecologically accurate. She proposes that "if we gardeners will only open our eyes to

nature, our aesthetic sense will help us do what's right." After reading the book, you'll believe her. A garden should not be part of the one-way flow of resources, a sink, where we only put things in - go to Hechingers, add mulch, go to the nursery, add plants, turn on the hose, add water. The garden and home could be more cyclic. Home waste water is purified in indoor plants before running through a fish pond then, into the garden.

She talks of the most recent research being done in the environmental fields and often stresses how important home gardeners will be (are?) in preserving biodiversity. The future of our wild species is not in zoos, arboreta or frozen vials, but in every one of our backyards. As the director of publishing at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and editor of their handbooks, Ms. Marinelli has a wealth of information and the wherewithall to compound it. While certainly not a little light reading, *Stalking the Wild Amaranth* has something for anyone with a passion for nature or gardening.

Web Sites

Diane Flaherty recommends the following Web sites to PWWS members:

<http://www.heritage.tnc.org> - a variety of biodiversity information including rare plants, invasive plants, natural area preserves, etc.

<http://tncwceds.ucdavis.edu> - invasives.

Blandy News

Arborfest, an open house held each fall at Blandy Experimental Farm, will be celebrated from 1:00-4:00pm on Sunday October 11, 1998. The theme of this year's Arborfest will be Virginia native plants, and the Native Plant Trail at Blandy will be featured. Marion Lobstein will give a presentation at 2:15 p.m. on the topic of "Fantastic Voyages," discussing the travels of our native species to Europe. (See also page 7.) This presentation will be followed by Marion guiding a tour through the Native Plant Garden. The public is invited and admission is free. Come out and enjoy Blandy Experimental Farm, home of your State Arboretum of Virginia. For additional information about Arborfest, call (540)837-1758 ext. 0 for a full schedule.

As part of its Apprentice Gardener Workshop series, Blandy Experimental Farm is offering the following:

Sunday, September 20: "Small Trees for the Home Landscape." Shirley Street, Arborist with the City of Falls Church, will focus on native trees for the smaller spaces of today's home landscape.

Sunday, October 18: "Backyard Habitats for Wildlife." Craig Tufts of the National Wildlife Federation will explain how to plan your fall plantings to attract birds and other animals to your garden.

The workshops are held 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Parkfield Learning

Center at a cost of \$10. Reservations are recommended. Call 540-837-1758, Ext. 21, 10:00-2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Blandy is located on Rt. 50, 10 miles east of Winchester.



Hidage canadensis
Fall Goldenrod

Fantastic Voyages: Selected Species of New World Plants Introduced into Europe for Horticultural /Medicinal Purposes

Marion Lobstein
Associate Professor of Biology,
Northern Virginia Community
College, Manassas Campus

The history of the introduction of many of our native species into Europe is a very fascinating subject and these introductions could be called fantastic voyages. The following is a partial list of some of the documented dates of when some of these species were introduced to Europe (including Great Britain). A second list is also included of our native species that are naturalized in Europe today.

1600s

Sassafras (*S. albidum*) - 1608
Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) - 1621
Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) - 1629
Canada Lily (*Lilium canadense*) - 1620s
Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) - 1629
Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) - 1629
Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) - 1640
Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*) - 1640
Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*) - 1640
Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) - 1656
Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*) - 1656
Tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) - mid 1600s
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) - mid 1600s
Goldenrods (first goldenrod introduction - *Solidago canadensis*) - mid 1600's
Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) - mid 1600s

Sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*) - 1636
New York Aster (*Aster novi-belgii*) - 1661
Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*) - 1675
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) - 1670s
Magnolia spp (*Magnolia virginiana*) - 1688
Sweet gum (*Liquidambar stryaciiflua*) - 1687

1700s

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) - 1714
Willow and white oaks (*Quercus phellos* and *Q. alba*) - 1720s
Catalpa (*C. bignoniodes*) - 1726
Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) - 1731
Summer phlox (*P. paniculata*) - 1732
Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) - 1734
Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) - 1734
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) - 1730s
Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginica*) 1730s
Pinxter flower (*Rhododendron nudiflorum*) - 1734
Crested Iris (*I. cristata*) - 1730s
Franklinia Tree (*Franklinia altamaha*) - 1730s
Holly 4 spp. (*Ilex opaca*, *I. verticillata*, *I. vomitoria*, *I. decidua*) - 1736
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) - 1736
Serviceberry spp. (*Amelanchier* spp) - 1736
Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) - 1736
Turks cap lily (*Lilium superbum*) - 1738
Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) - 1746
Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) - 1754
Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*) - 1756
Virgins bower (*Clematis virginiana*) - 1768

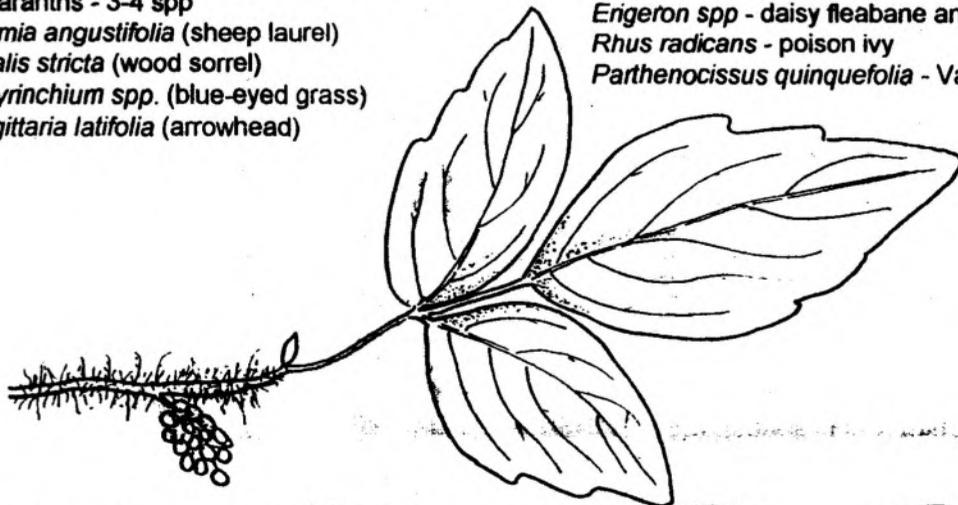
Over 50 spp of North American native species of plants are listed in both Bentham, G. and J.D. Hooker (Revised A. Rendle), *Handbook of the British Flora*, ed., 1947 and in M. Blamey and C. Grey-Wilson, *The Illustrated Flora of Britain and Northern Europe*, 1989. Listed
(Continued on page 8)

below are some examples of some of our common species now naturalized in Europe.

Eastern North American Natives Naturalized in Europe Today:

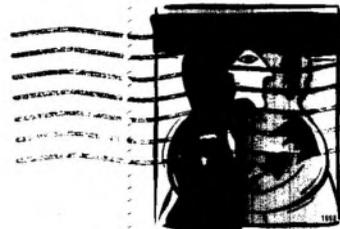
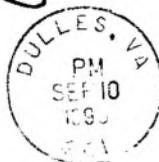
Oenothera spp (evening primroses) - 6 spp
Amaranths - 3-4 spp
Kalmia angustifolia (sheep laurel)
Oxalis stricta (wood sorrel)
Sisyrinchium spp. (blue-eyed grass)
Sagittaria latifolia (arrowhead)

Phytolacca americana - pokeweed
Datura stramonium - Jimsonweed
Helianthus tuberosus - Jerusalem artichoke
Rudbeckia hirta - black-eyed Susan
Ambrosia spp. - ragweeds
Xanthium spp - cockleburrs
Aster spp - 7 spp asters
Solidago spp - 4 spp goldenrods
Anaphalis spp - cudweeds
Erigeron spp - daisy fleabane and horseweed
Rhus radicans - poison ivy
Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Va. creeper



Toxicodendron radicans
Poison - Ivy

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Sept Meeting: Sunday, Sept 27, 1998, Friends of Bull Run, Bull Run Mt.

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