

WILD NEWS

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

Number 00-05

September-October 2000

ANNUAL MEETING SEPT 17

Come to the PWWS annual picnic meeting at 1 p.m. at the Haymarket area home of Frances and Phil Louer on Sunday, September 17. The Louers' five-acre garden has been on the spring garden tour and, while its azalea show is spectacular, the fall wildflower show is also a delight.

Bring a dish to share at the potluck picnic, cast your vote for new officers for the 2000-2002 term and vote on the annual budget at the short business meeting, perhaps win a door prize, then enjoy the wildflowers in the lovely gardens.

As announced in the annual meeting notice, the slate of candidates for office is as follows:

President:	Nancy Vehrs
Vice-President:	Leo Stoltz
Secretary:	June Najjum
Treasurer:	Marie Davis

To ensure a quorum, please mail in your ballot if you do not plan to attend the meeting.

The proposed annual budget is printed on page four.

Directions to the Louers' home: From Manassas and points south, take Route 234 (Sudley Road) north to its intersection with Route 15. Turn left at the light and immediately turn right onto Waterfall Road. Go about one mile and turn right on Padgett Drive. Go one block and turn right onto Palmer Lane. The Louers' house is the third on the left, #15800.

Remember to bring a lawn chair if you can.

For further information about the meeting, call President Gina Yurkonis at 540-347-1027 or Vice-President Nancy Arrington at 703-368-8431.

Flora of Virginia UPDATE

The most recent issue of the VNPS *Bulletin* has a featured article from Marion Lobstein on progress on the *Flora of Virginia* project. As well, a questionnaire (designed with the help of PWWS member Leo Stoltz) is included with this issue of the *Bulletin*. This questionnaire was distributed to PWWS members at the chapter's July meeting and the information from those questionnaires is to be entered into a data base that will be used to support this project. If you did not fill out a questionnaire at the PWWS July meeting, you are encouraged to respond to this questionnaire as soon as possible. Many thanks from Marion to all who already completed the survey.

Ways in which PWWS can support these efforts were discussed at the August Board meeting and specific actions will be taken this fall as the project moves forward. Marion will speak to the VNPS Board of Directors on September 9 to provide an update and answer questions on the project. Again, please read the *Bulletin* article regarding this historic *Flora of Virginia* project and complete and return the questionnaire if you have not already done so. Marion plans to be at the PWWS annual meeting and will be happy to discuss the project with PWWS members at that time. Send email her to at mblobst@mnsinc.com or call her at 703-536-7150.

NEXT MEETING

The next general meeting will be held Monday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. Details will appear in the next issue of *Wild News*.



From the President Gina Yurkonis

Hello again and welcome fall! Although it's been a wonderfully luxurious summer with all the rain and temps in the 80's, I do look forward to fall. There's still lots of planting to do. Many nurseries have stock on sale. Trees and shrubs go in the ground without much stress. Many native plants are in full bloom. Our vital native pollinators are bulking up for their winter's rest and the nectar of goldenrods, eupatoriums, asters, and all those yellow composites are just the ticket. Migratory birds are staging - gathering together to prepare for their trip. The huge flocks of blackbirds are most noticeable. Soon, the dogwood berries will ripen, the Virginia creeper will turn scarlet, and the poison ivy will show its finest attribute - brilliant orange and red color to attract birds to its rich berries.

We've got a great way to celebrate fall and its bounty. Our annual meeting will be September 17. It's very gracious of the Louers to welcome us to their property. There has never yet been a shortage of food or drinks and the popular door prize drawings are back again. We all hope the weather holds out, but the party always goes on. I hope new as well as old members attend and have a great time. Bring a gardening friend or family member and we'll see you there!

- Gina

Witch Hazel Weekend

Green Spring Gardens Park celebrates witch hazel the weekend of October 20-21. Chris Strand will lecture on the history of different *Hamamelis* species and a selection of cultivars on Friday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. Herbalist Phoebe Reeves will lecture that Saturday at 1 p.m. on witch hazel and other native medicinal plants used by colonists and native Americans. For registration information call 703-642-5173.

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Conservation Chair: Helen Walter, 703-330-9614

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Hospitality Chair: Joann Krumviede, 703-938-4378

Membership Chair: Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898

Program Chair: Charles Smith, 703-361-5125

Propagation/Plant Sale Chair: Nancy Arrington, 703-368-8431

Registry Site Chair: Elaine Haug, 703-670-2347

Editor: Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898

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Deadline for the Nov-Dec issue is Nov 1, 2000. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St., Manassas, VA 20110-3671 or email to nvehrs@attglobal.net.

July 17 Meeting Minutes

President Gina Yurkonis introduced the speaker for the evening, Don Hyatt. Don spoke on native azaleas. A few points from his talk include:

- Natives need three to four hours of direct sun to bloom. More is not necessary with the heat in our area.
- Good selections for this area are *Rhododendron prinophyllum* and *Rhododendron cumberlandense* (*R. bakeri*).
- Deadhead the plants for better blooming the next year.

Take a look at Don's website at www.tjhsst.edu/~dhyatt/azaleas.

To join the American Rhododendron Society, contact Dee Daneri, Exec. Director, 11 Pinecrest Drive, Fortuna, CA 95540. Individual dues \$28,

(continued from previous page)

Family \$33. Website: www.rhododendron.org.

To join the Azalea Society of America, send request to P.O. Box 34536, West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536. Regular \$25, Contributing \$50.

Website: www.azaleas.org.

After the refreshment break, Gina held a short business meeting. Gina noted that PWWS is nearly out of yellow VNPS T-shirts and no more will be ordered unless a number of people want them. Black T-shirts, long-sleeved, are still available.

Blythe Merritt of the Audubon Naturalist Society announced a water quality project. An introductory workshop to train those interested in taking samples will be held September 30, 12-4:30 p.m., tentatively at the Manassas Battlefield. Contact ANS for more information.

Nancy Vehrs, a member of the nominating committee, asked for volunteers to fill the board slots open this year, including president, vice president, and secretary. She needs the names by August 17.

Nancy V. reminded members that PWWS has adopted a flower bed at the Ben Lomond Rose Garden and volunteers are needed for weeding. Call Nancy (703-368-2898) to volunteer.

The Irvine Nature Science Center will hold its annual seminar and plant sale on August 26. For more information, call 410-484-2413 or check the website at www.explorenature.org. A free pass is available to someone who will prepare a writeup on the event for the next PWWS newsletter. Contact Nancy Vehrs if you are interested.

Nicky Staunton reported that Virginia had come out with a license plate of state wildflowers; however, the flowers were all exotics. The state has corrected this situation and license plates will soon be available with black-eyed Susans, Virginia bluebells, and butterfly weed.

Marion Lobstein reported on the book of Virginia flora which is being developed. Virginia is one of the most diverse states east of the Mississippi and experienced early botanical

exploration. The last book was written in 1739. Chris Ludwig of Virginia Natural Heritage Program has agreed to chair the project. Support for the project has come from the Virginia Academy of Science and the State Arboretum at Blandy. Funding is now being sought for the project. A foundation will be set up to produce the book and donating information will be available shortly.

Marion noted that suggestions are being sought from potential users of the book. With this in mind, she asked that members complete a survey developed by Leo Stoltz that will give the project people an idea of the substance and structure that users believe are most desirable. The survey should be returned to Marion within the next three weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Attendees:

Marie Davis	Nicky Staunton
Marion Lobstein	Mike & Blanche Anderson
Diane & Rick Flaherty	Marge Walther
Renee Holiday	Nancy Arrington
Martha Slover	Charlotte Cochard
Carol Thompson	June Najjum
Mickey Sullivan	J.R. Pauswinski
Tiana Camfiord	Charles Smith
Nancy Vehrs	Warren Ryder
Helen Walter	Jeanne Fowler
Nicky Staunton	Blythe Merritt

-Diane Flaherty, Secretary

October Board Meeting

The PWWS Board will next meet on October 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. This will be a joint meeting with both incoming and outgoing officers and Board members. All members are welcome to attend. For more info, call President Gina Yurkonis at 540-347-1027.

Budget Proposed for FY 2001

PWWS Treasurer Marie Davis has proposed the following budget for the next fiscal year. Members will vote to approve the budget at the annual meeting on September 17.

FY 2001 BUDGET		
(November 1, 2000-October 31, 2001)		
RECEIPTS:		
Dues	\$	900
Plant Sale		2,000
Miscellaneous		300
	TOTAL	\$3,200
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Postage	\$	750
Printing		800
Gifts and Honoraria		250
Programs and Speakers		250
Plant Sale Expenses		400
Sales Tax		125
Education		475
Wildflower Week		150
	TOTAL	\$3,200

Thanks to Ben Lomond Old Rose Garden Volunteers

Many thanks to the following members who volunteered to maintain the PWWS bed in the Ben Lomond Old Rose Garden: Nancy Arrington, Charlotte Cochard, Diane Flaherty, Charles Smith, and Nancy Vehrs. The garden is located on Sudley Manor Drive in Manassas.

A sign-up sheet for upcoming weeks will be circulated at the September meeting. Please consider volunteering this fall; you'll be rewarded with the sight of lovely and vibrant obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) in full bloom as well as

cordate leaf goldenrod (*Solidago sphacelata*) - and that's just two of the native plants! For more information, call Nancy Vehrs at 703-368-2898 or e-mail her at nvehrs@attglobal.net.

Online Newsletter Available

Want to eliminate some paper from your life? Members may choose to receive an electronic version of *Wild News*. While the newsletter is posted on the VNPS website at www.vnps.org (in html format) after it has been mailed to members, the newsletter can also be emailed at the same time copies are mailed. To request to be added to the electronic mailing list, contact Nancy Vehrs at nvehrs@attglobal.net.

Welcome New Members

PWWS welcomes the following new members who joined within the last year:

Mary Anderson, Woodbridge
 Mike & Blanche Anderson, Manassas
 Joanne Balint, Manassas
 Gigi Blodgett, Fredericksburg
 Charlotte & Gary Cochard, Manassas
 Nancy Conner, Manassas
 Janie Darby, Manassas
 Stephen Gough, Fredericksburg
 Jack Harper, Manassas
 Elizabeth Harschow, Woodbridge
 Deanna, Jack & Lily High, Manassas
 Jean Johnson, Fredericksburg
 Kenneth Kittell, Manassas
 Mary Ellen McKenna, Arlington
 Tish Minear, Manassas
 Elaine Mountz, Stafford
 Nancy Penick, Fredericksburg
 Sharon Sepkowski, Manassas
 Julie Taylor, Stafford
 Jim Thomas, Manassas
 Anita Tuttle, King George
 Ron Weyforth, Stafford

TURTLEHEAD

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

Chelone glabra, commonly called turtlehead, is a perennial member of the Scrophulariaceae or snapdragon family. This distinctive plant that has flowers resembling a turtle's head is found in most counties of Virginia. This species blooms from July into September and is found in moist conditions such as stream banks, ditches, damp woods, and swamps. The range of this species is from Newfoundland to Georgia and west into Missouri. The genus name of *Chelone* is derived from a Greek term for tortoise and species name of *glabra* means smooth. Other common names are balmony, bitter herb, snake head, snake mouth, shellflower, and fishmouth.

The white to pink flowers of turtlehead are approximately one-inch long with a calyx of five sepals, a two-lipped corolla with an arching upper lip resembling the top of a turtle's head and a lower three parted lip, five stamens (one of which is sterile), and a pistil with two carpels. The flowers are found in tight terminal clusters as well as single flowers in the opposite leaf axils. The primary pollinators are bumblebees that are strong enough to pry open the corolla. The fruit that develops from each fertilized flower is a one-half inch long capsule with a papery covering that contains numerous brown seeds that are only 1/8 inch long.

Each plant has a smooth, slightly angular stem that may be up to one to three or more feet tall. The shiny, dark green leaves are opposite lance-shaped leaves 3-6 inches long.

The medicinal uses of this plant by Native American tribes as well as in folk or herbal medicine are numerous. These medicinal uses included use as a bitter tonic and/or leaf tea to

simulate appetite as well as liver and stomach activity. It also was used as a gentle laxative and to expel worms (one of its most important functions). Other uses included treating jaundice, fever, and malaria as a tonic or leaf tea. Leaves and stems were made into an ointment or poultice to treat piles, ulcers, sores, and fever blisters.

This late summer and early fall keep an eye out for this most unusual and attractive flower. Use your imagination and enjoy the mental image of a group of small turtle heads on this unusual plant!



Fall Plant Sale at Green Spring Garden

Rare and unusual plants abound at Green Spring's popular fall fête on Saturday, September 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Native plants, mums, fall perennials, cacti, and other plants are available from area nurseries, the Friends of Green Spring, and various plant societies (including the Potowmack Chapter of VNPS). Staff horticulturists and volunteers will answer your plant and landscaping questions and the historic manor house is full of art and garden gifts.

Green Spring Gardens Park is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. For further information, contact the special projects coordinator at 703-642-5173.



Nearby Nature Workshops

Nearby Nature presents the following workshops jointly sponsored by the Prince William Wildflower Society, Prince William Natural Resources Council, and Nature's Wonder World with support from Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.

Asters, Goldenrods & Other Composites with Bill Sipple at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sunday, October 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration Required; Fee \$25.

Stream Ecology with Cliff Fairweather, site to be determined, Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration Required; Fee \$25.

To register, please send your name, address, phone number, and email address with fee(s) to Nature's Wonder World, PO Box 6029, Woodbridge, VA 22195-6029. For further information, call 703-490-0455 or email kim@natureswonderworld.org.

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A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
PO Box 83, Manassas, VA 20108-0083

exp. 10/00

Nancy Arrington
8388 Briarmont Lane
Manassas, VA 20111



 Annual Meeting: 1 p.m., Sunday, Sept 17, Home of Frances and Phil Louer, Haymarket