

WILD NEWS

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

Number 00-04

July-August 2001

MOSS GARDENING PROGRAM AT JULY 16 MEETING

"Moss Gardening: A Shady Solution" is the topic of Norie Burnet's program at the PWWS membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 16. Norie's garden, Eden Woods, is being featured right now (Summer 2001 issue) in *Better Homes and Gardens' Perennials* magazine. She has written extensively on the subject, including authoring a publication entitled "Moss Gardens." She is a retired teacher who speaks regularly in the Richmond area on moss gardening and is a volunteer and moss consultant at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

We will meet at the Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church at 9400 Main Street in Old Town Manassas. (*Note different location.*) The church sits on the corner of Main and Church Streets. Parking can be found along Church Street, Battle Street, and in several nearby municipal parking lots.

For further information about the meeting, call President Nancy Vehrs at 703-368-2898.

Annual Meeting Sept. 16

PWWS's annual picnic meeting and election of nominating committee members will be held Sunday, September 16 at the home of Marie and Paul Davis near Manassas. Watch your mailbox for the special 30-day notice.

PLANT SALE SHATTERS RECORD

Sales at this year's plant sale exceeded last year's record by over \$1200. In addition, the chapter gained 15 new members.

It wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of the dedicated volunteers who assisted with the sale or donated plants: Tiana Camfiord, Charlotte Cochard, Marie and Paul Davis, Kathy and Don Ehrenberger, Jeanne and Hans Endrikat, Volker Imschweiler, Ken Kittell, Joann Krumviede, Mary LeKander, Frances Louer, June Najjum, Valerie Neitzey, Mida Page-Sheehan, Wendy Pierce, Warren Ryder, Jennifer Shepard, Charles Smith, Martha Slover, Linda and Leo Stoltz, Carol Thompson, Robin Thoreson, Nancy Vehrs, Cathy Waterhouse, and Gina Yurkonis. Thanks to all! And thank you to all the loyal customers who make this event successful each year.

We want to make next year's sale even better. Charles Smith will serve as tree and shrub coordinator and will see to it that we have more of these popular plants. Leo Stoltz is seed propagation coordinator; call him, 703-791-6175, if you have seeds you'd like him to start. A new feature at this year's sale was a selection of water garden plants furnished by Kathy Ehrenberger and Gina Yurkonis. They'll be in charge of water plants next year. Martha Slover, as picture coordinator, continues to add to our collection of pictures showing plants in bloom.

-Nancy Arrington
Plant Sale Chair



From the President - Nancy Vehrs

As I write this the Code Red air of late June has been replaced by fresh, cool breezes. I can once again see the inspiring outlines of Bull Run Mountain and beyond when I look over to the west along Route 28 in Centreville on my way in to work in Fairfax. We've had adequate rainfall this season and we all hope that continues. Of course, we can do without the three and one-half inch drenching we had back on June 22!

As you can see, inside this issue of *Wild News* is the goldenrod-colored flyer inviting you to attend our first summer garden tour July 22. Nancy Arrington, Kathy and Don Ehrenberger, and Warren and I are all eager to share our gardens with everyone. I hope I speak for all of us when I say that we may not have picture-perfect lawns or topiary hedges, but we do have livable gardens, ones that support a variety of wildlife and create wonderful little ecosystems.

This month's speaker provides us with a less publicized alternative to lawns - moss. Many people fight their natural moss with lime to grow grass, but why keep battling Mother Nature when we can just appreciate moss for the lovely greenery it provides.

While our chapter does seem to emphasize gardening with its programs and events, I hope that none of us loses sight of the fact that we are a conservation group. The VNPS touts the "motto" *conserving wild flowers in wild places*. I believe that gardening with natives gives one a better appreciation for those found in the wild. It also helps me to identify some native plants in their non-flowering state - because I've seen them through the seasons in the garden.

Mother Nature's delicate balance can become overturned when invasive aliens are let loose in our environment. Such is the case with the imported gypsy moth that escaped from a lab up north many years ago. Warren and I hiked "Little Schoss" near Woodstock in the George

Washington National Forest recently and were appalled at the gypsy moth damage. Many of the mountainsides were brown. Up close many trees appeared dead or were struggling to releaf late in June. Some areas had the appearance of April with the tiny newly forming leaves on the trees. Let's hope that some of our trees can recover from these alien attacks.

- Nancy

Native Plant Seminar and Sale

The tenth annual Irvine Natural Science Center's native plant seminar and plant sale will be held on Saturday, August 25 in Stevenson, Maryland, phone 410-484-2413, website: explorenature.org. Cost is \$50. Seminar registration and an early bird plant sale for registrants begins at 8 a.m. The plant sale, with over a dozen native plant vendors, is open to the general public from 1-3 p.m.

Copies of the registration form will be available from Nancy Vehrs at the July meeting or can be printed from the website.

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VNPS home page: <http://www.vnps.org>.

President	Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898, nvehrs@attglobal.net
VP/Publicity	Leo Stoltz, 703-791-6175, osamukato@aol.com
Secretary	June Najjum, 703-494-1891
Treasurer	Marie Davis, 703-361-1626
Botany	Marion Lobstein, 703-536-7150
Conservation	Wendy Pierce, 703-754-2932
Education	Kim Hosen, 703-491-8406
Historian	Robyn Thoreson, 703-335-1015
Hospitality	
Imm. Past Pres	Gina Yurkonis, 540-347-1027
Membership	OPEN
Programs	Charles Smith, 703-361-5125
Plant Sale	Nancy Arrington, 703-368-8431
Refreshments	Joann Krumvielde, 703-938-4378
Registry Site	Claudia Thompson-Deahl, 703-754-9235
Editor	Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898
Original Artwork	by Nicky Staunton, 703-368-9803

Deadline for the Sept-Oct issue is Sept 1, 2001. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St., Manassas, VA 20110-3671 or email to nvehrs@attglobal.net.

Hummers

I don't believe in "Butterfly Gardens." There are so many animal and plant interactions that go on among flowers, one can't have just a "butterfly" garden. It will be, inevitably, a "butterfly/bee/wasp/beetle/ant/bird/preying mantis/moth/caterpillar, etc." garden. Think of it like: a "steak house" isn't really just steak. That's not to say I don't design specific types of gardens for clients; I do because they can feature plants which certain animals prefer. Butterflies like a lot of nectar. Another nectar-lover is the hummingbird. Hummies often share the garden with butterflies. There are also very specific flowers which hummingbirds prefer. The classic hummingbird flower is tubular and red. Hummingbirds' long beaks and tongues can reach deep into flowers which exclude other pollinators. Our native eastern columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) has nectar inside long, red spurs which only hummingbirds can reach. The flowers bloom just in time for the birds' arrival on migration. Our native honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) flower is red and tubular and feeds hummies from early May. A well-behaved vine in the garden, it should never be confused with the Japanese honeysuckle which chokes our local roadsides and hedgerows. A summer-bloomer, jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) likes moist soil. Its orange, horn-shaped flowers hang from delicate stems - perfect for hovering hummingbirds. One of our few annual native wildflowers, jewelweed does not transplant well but is easily started from seed. Ripe seed pods burst open at a touch in late summer, sometimes with an audible pop and a bit of giggling from those doing the popping.

Hummers also count on summer nectar from trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*). A vigorous vine once established, trumpet creeper is best grown on a sturdy fence or tree. Its large orange to red flowers begin when the plant is a few years old and return every summer to please the hummingbirds.

In the perennial border, you can offer hummers foxgloves, coralbells (*Heuchera*) and penstemon. All enjoy a little shade. In a sunnier site, try salvias, lilies, and tender lantana. Hummingbirds will have to negotiate with the butterflies for grazing rights here. The delicate blooms of salvia "Lady in Red" are a real treat for gardeners tired of the old, coarse red salvias. As the cold winds come in fall, the hummers will start their migration southward again. Have some caryopteris shrubs in bloom. Hummingbirds don't seem to care that the flowers are sky blue. I watched one female rubythroat hummingbird eat so much caryopteris nectar she had to sit down and rest.

If you have a hummingbird feeder, keep it filled until very late fall for migrants. Any time of year, never keep nectar in the feeder longer than a week. Molds begin to grow in the sugar-water which will kill a hummingbird. Empty, rinse, and refill the feeder regularly. Just boil one cup of water in the microwave, stir in 1/4 cup white sugar, let it chill a few minutes in the freezer and refill the feeder. If you do it all in a glass measuring cup, it pours right in - five minutes flat.

Another large part of a hummer's diet is insects. Both adults and babies need the protein. Remember never to use insecticides in a garden which attracts hummingbirds. We don't want baby hummingbirds getting a mouthful of poisoned aphids. One organization even suggests hanging a banana peel near the hummingbird feeder to attract fruit flies. I think I'll let them pick the thrips off the rose bush instead.

Hummingbirds are fearless and will chase off birds many times their size. Their "no guts, no glory" attitude is extended to people as well and they can become quite tame. Enjoy a summer of hummers this year and all the other friends they bring.

-Gina Yurkonis

(Ed. Note: The preceding article originally appeared in the *Fauquier-Times Dispatch*.)

May 21 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The meeting began with Charles Smith's introduction of our speaker, Alonso Abugattus, one of the founders of the Washington Area Butterfly Club. He presented colorful slides of butterflies that could be attracted to our own backyards by following a few suggestions:

1. Plant masses of specific flora.
2. Plan for continuous blooms through the warm seasons.
3. Include larval plants, not just nectar flowers.
4. Provide a basking spot (dark flat rocks to warm up their bodies in the early hours).
5. Provide mud puddles for the males to congregate.

Some other interesting facts:

- Butterflies are not attracted to the color red, so choose other colors such as blue or white in flowers.
- All kinds of milkweeds are usually good choices for many kinds of butterfly larvae and caterpillars.
- Native plants provide more nectar than many of their cultivars.
- Not all butterflies are attracted to flowers - some prefer rotting fruit or animal carcasses.
- Choose a sunny location for your butterfly garden, with protection from the wind.
- Do not be disappointed if the plants that are supposed to attract butterflies do not work for your yard - find some that will (by studying what they seem to prefer in your area.)
- It is wiser to spend your money on plants rather than "butterfly houses."
- Find a field guide that limits its selections to butterflies of our area.

Some of the resources that he suggested were:

Butterflies Through Binoculars (book)

Washington Area Butterfly Club:

vais.net/butterfly

National Butterfly Association: www.naba.org

We took a break at 8:50 p.m. to enjoy refreshments provided by Joann Krumviede and

reconvened for business at 9:20 p.m. Leo Stoltz moved that the minutes be accepted from the March meeting. It was seconded by Wendy Pierce and carried by unanimous vote. Marie Davis followed with the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$5,491.66 and includes the plant sale total of \$4,782, which was a record breaker.

A volunteer opportunity was announced. Amy Caicedo needs help with the invasive alien plant pull ("Weed Warrior"). Those volunteers will be working at the Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, May 27.

Other announcements:

Plant Sale Report: Nancy Vehrs stated that we collected \$345 for memberships, including 15 new ones. Nancy Arrington, Plant Sale Chair, said that there will be subcommittees next year such as shrubs and trees, water gardens, seed propagation, and transportation.

Thank you to Jeanne, Marie, and Tiana who volunteered their gardens for the spring wildflower garden tour. Nancy Vehrs announced that the summer garden tour (Arrington, Ehrenberger, and Ryder-Vehrs gardens) is planned for July 22.

Nicky Staunton reported on the *Flora of Virginia* Project in the absence of Marion Lobstein, who could not attend because of illness. Marion is progressing on the project. She is running out of the colorful brochures and needs to print more. PWWS may consider providing funding for this purchase in the future.

Several members attended the May 20 reception for Jim Waggener, a leader in the Prince William Natural Resources Council. A large telescope will be permanently installed on a bluff near the gazebo at the Occoquan Bay Wildlife Refuge. It will hold a plaque in honor of Jim's leadership in making the refuge a reality.

Reminder from Nicky: The Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Meeting will be held in Winchester June 1, 2, and 3. There will be lots of interesting activities. Read your VNPS newsletter for details. They are requesting contributions of

plant-bird related items for the silent auction.

Warren Ryder provided an email address for those interested in environmental issues: www.saveourevironment.org.

Sandra Sheriff, Bill Hendrickson, Charlotte Cochard, and Marie Davis were each awarded a door prize. Afterwards, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

-June Najjum, Secretary

Attendance:

Carol Thompson	June Najjum
Cheryl Thompson	Cheryl D. Hughes
Karen Waltman	Sandra Sheriff
Charles Smith	Nicky Staunton
Wendy Pierce	Charlotte Cochard
Gina Yurkonis	Warren Ryder
Volker Imschweiler	Joann Krumviede
Marie Davis	Jane Dvonch
Rose Schwitzer	Amy Hamilton
April Pilhorn	William Hendrickson
Linda Stoltz	Leo Stoltz
Tiana Camford	Nancy Vehrs
Jeanne Fowler	Nancy Arrington

Pickerelweed

Pickerelweed (*Pontederia condata* L.) is a fleshy, emergent perennial that usually grows partially submerged in water and rooted in soft sediments. At peak season, the plant's most definitive diagnostic characteristics are its dark green, heart-shaped (cordate) foliage and striking spike (subtended by a heart-shaped leaf-like bract) of violet or blue flowers. The upper lobe of the funnel-form petals has a distinct yellow mark. A marsh dominated by this plant will have a definite violet/blue hue during the blooming season (late May to September) because of the multitude of flowering spikes. The leaves, 8 to 10 inches long and 4 to 8 inches wide, have an array of delicate veins that parallel each other and the general shape of the leaf or bract. During the growing season, the foliage is very dense in large pickerelweed colonies that attain heights from 2 to 4 feet. *Pontederia* often grows in association with arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*). Although both species are somewhat similar, they can be easily differentiated. Pickerelweed has heart-

shaped leaves and blue flowers and arrow arum has an enclosed (spath) spike (spadix) and triangular shaped leaves with three prominent veins.

Pickerelweed ranges from throughout eastern North America from Canada to South Carolina and Texas.

Pontederia cordata almost always grows in shallow water emerging from a thick rhizome embedded in muddy substrate. In tidewater Virginia, it is most abundant in tidal freshwater or very low saline rivers and creeks. It is frequently associated with arrow arum and less frequently with arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), bultongue, (*Sagittaria lancifolia*) and northern wildrice (*Zizania aquatica*). These emergents usually grow in a narrow zone between mean high tide and mean sea level (intertidal zone) in tidal freshwater rivers or creeks.

Freshwater tidal riverine wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are important spawning and nursery areas for anadromous fishes, such as herring, shad, and striped bass. Specifically, the reddish bladder-like seeds of pickerelweed are good waterfowl food.

-Gene Silberhorn

Wetlands Program, School of Marine Science

(Ed. Note: The preceding article was published in May 2001 as a Technical Report on Wetland Flora by the Wetlands Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science.)



Illustration by
Kent Forrest

Wild Blueberries - A Special Treat

Blueberries are members of the large heath family (Ericaceae). Although they have common characteristics, blueberries really stand out from their relatives when the fruit develops. True blueberries bear terminal clusters of fruits that turn blue, sometimes black, when ripe with many fine, soft seeds in the center. Blueberries are common shrubs in the eastern United States and are divided into two groups, highbush and lowbush.

High bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) is the tallest and can get up to 15 feet tall. It is the ancestor of our cultivated blueberry and one of the more common understory shrubs in coastal forests. Leaves are oval shaped with green, sometimes red, somewhat zig-zagged stems, making them easy to identify in winter. It begins flowering as early as April with small white, bell-shaped flowers. Fruits begin ripening by the end of May.

Low-bush blueberry is much smaller, usually no more than three feet high. Flowers often have a pink tint followed by fruits similar to the highbush and equally sweet. The foliage of both highbush and lowbush blueberry turns brilliant red in the fall. Once blueberry has been recognized and identified, no other description or explanation is really necessary. You simply eat it. Sweet and tasty, it can be eaten raw, added to pancakes, cookies, cakes, pies, whatever you feel inspired to create.

Blueberries were a source of food for Native Americans as well. After eating what they could, the surplus was preserved by drying. Iroquois would spread the berries on boards or in flat baskets and place them in the sun or by the fire. They would also mash them into small cakes and place on basswood leaves to dry for about one week. To rehydrate, they would soak them in warm water and cook as a sauce or with cornbread. The dried berries were taken on

hunting expeditions as a food source.

The Menomoni mixed dried blueberries and sweet corn together and sweetened it with maple sugar as a special dish (Erichsen-Brown, 1979). Today the drying process can be greatly speeded up using food dehydrators. Once the berries are dried, they can be ground up in a coffee mill or blender to make a fine powder. The powder can be used to make tea or added to flour for baking.

Blueberries are also medicinal. A leaf decoction was taken by the Ojibwa to "purify the blood." A tea made from the root was described by Peter Smith in *The Indian Doctor's Dispensatory* for spasms of every kind, including hiccup, cholic, epilepsy, hysterics, even ague.

Recent research shows that blueberries contain compounds that are beneficial. According to Dr. James Duke, in his Green Pharmacy, blueberries contain anthocyanosides, a compound that contributes to visual acuity and offers protection against ulcers. They also contain arbutin, a compound that is both an antibiotic and a diuretic and helps relieve excess water retention. Certain compounds, according to a study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, prevent bacteria from adhering to the bladder walls, thus preventing bladder infection.

As wildlife food, blueberries attract songbirds and small mammals for their fruits. Deer and rabbits browse on the twigs and foliage. Blueberries are easy to grow and are excellent for the native garden. They are found in low, wet areas, open woodlands, and even in the dune scrub areas along the coast. If you have an empty place in your yard or garden, try wild blueberries - the rewards are many.

-Vickie Shufer

(Ed. Note: The preceding article originally appeared in the 2001 June/July/August newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and has been reprinted with permission. Vickie Shufer is the editor of "The Wild Foods Forum" bimonthly newsletter. For more information, email her at wildfood@infi.net; www.pilot.infi.net/~wildfood.)

LIZARD'S-TAIL

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

Saururus cernuus, commonly called lizard's-tail, is a perennial member of the *Saururaceae* or lizard's-tail family. This distinctive wetland species has a rather strong but pleasant fragrance. The long, slender wand-like inflorescences of small white flowers appear by June and plants often bloom sporadically into September. This species is found in swamps, along streambanks, and on edges of ponds from southern Ontario and Quebec south to Florida and west to Texas and Kansas. The genus name of *Saururus* is from the Greek "sauros" for lizard and "oura" for tail, referring to the tail-like appearance of the spikes of small white flowers. The species name of *cernuus* means "drooping" and refers to the nodding shape of the inflorescence that turns up at the end.

The flowers of lizard's-tail are only around 1/8" or less long and lack both sepals and petals,



but each flower does have a very small bractlet (modified leaf) that subtends each flower. There are 6-8 white stamens and 4-5 separate pistils that are joined at their bases. The fragrant flowers borne on nodding spikes up to 6" long attract insect pollinators. Following pollination and fertilization, the multiple pistils from each flower fuse together to form a somewhat fleshy fruit that splits into separate fleshy sections that are one-seeded achenes.

Each plant has a slender stem that may be up to four or more feet tall with alternate heart-shaped leaves that are up to 6" long and 4" wide. Mature plants have a well developed rhizome with short fibrous roots. New plants can form from these rhizomes as well as germinating from seed.

In 1751 John Bartram wrote that roots of lizard's-tail were "... made into a poultice, and applied to sore and impostumated breasts, it ripens and heals them. The dried leaves made into a tea and drank, is commended for the pains of the breast and back." William Bartram called it swamp-lily and wrote that it preserved the lives of many thousands of the people of the Southern states. Cherokee tribal members used the rhizome to make a poultice to treat boils.

Despite the very simple structure of each flower of lizard's-tail, the unusual nodding appearance and sweet fragrance of these inflorescences make this wetland species a pleasure to experience during the summer months. When you are visiting wetland habitats this summer, be on the lookout for this most unusual species.

NVCC Wildflower Garden Needs Help

The wildflower garden at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College is in need of some caretakers. Anyone willing to lend assistance is asked to call Marion Lobstein at 703-536-7150 to volunteer.

Nature Conservancy Garden

The Conservancy's garden (4245 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington) is in glorious, radiant bloom. Last year at this time, it wasn't looking very well. The bushes and trees and some of the perennials were okay, but the middle had a problem. The word "weeds" was being whispered about. The problem seemed to be that the gardening company had put in the wrong mix of flower seeds for the wildflower meadow. So this spring the gardeners did a prescribed burn on two sections. The results are fabulous. I continually get up from my desk to look out the window -- I'm on the 5th floor and have a great view of the whole garden.

If you are in the Ballston/Arlington area, come by for a look. If you come during the week, ask the receptionist to call me and we'll tour the garden together. It's so beautiful.

-Diane Flaherty

August Board Meeting

The PWWS Board will next meet on August 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Vice-President Leo Stoltz. For information or directions, call him at 703-791-6175.

Flora of Virginia Project

At its June meeting, the PWWS Board took action to contribute \$1000 toward start-up costs for the *Flora of Virginia* Project. For more information on the project visit: www/vnps.org/vaflora.htm.

Welcome New Members

PWWS welcomes its newest members: Mary Lou Chiarito, Woodbridge; Amy Hamilton, Gainesville; Cheryl Hughes, Manassas; Judy Jellen, Manassas; Sallie LaCava, Woodbridge; William and June Lehman, Manassas; John Litten, Manassas; Mary McLaurin, Woodbridge; Susan Myers, Manassas; Alice Payne, Manassas; Tom Peterman, Manassas; April Pilhorn, Manassas; Steve Ritter, Broad Run; Carolyn Weaver, Manassas; Sherry Wall, Manassas; Robert Wise, Manassas; and Barbara Wright, Manassas.

Wildflower Walks

Marion Lobstein continues to conduct walks in Virginia's Great Falls Park on the third Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. Contact Marion at 703-536-7150 for details.

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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



exp. 10/01

Nancy Arrington
8388 Briarmont Lane
Manassas, VA 20111



**July Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Monday, July 16, Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church
Old Town Manassas
"Moss Gardening: A Shady Solution"**

Arrington Garden
8388 Briarmont Lane, Manassas



In this large mainly shade garden native perennials and shrubs that grow in less than full sun and attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and other insects are planted in beds surrounding the house. Several woodland beds are devoted to early blooming wildflowers and ferns. A small pond contains lizard's tail and pickerelweed, and an adjacent tiny bog is planted with pitcher plants and Venus flytraps. A "moon walk" featuring silver, chartreuse, and variegated foliage and flowers that are white or fragrant at night is in the making. Native perennials that will be blooming include summer phlox, black-eyed Susan, ruellia, blazing star, white top aster, and coneflowers. Shrubby St. Johnswort, summersweet, butterfly bushes, and native azalea species should be flowering. Grass is a low priority in this garden and lawn areas include moss, violets, and various other "weeds."

Ehrenberger Garden
8954 Jasmine Court, Manassas

This garden serves as an extension of the rooms in the home with opportunities for wildlife viewing. Butterfly bushes and other nectar pleasing plants draw in the hummingbirds and butterflies, while water features, berry bushes, and feeders offer goodies to other birds. Perennials such as purple coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, gloriosa daisies, oxeye daisies, summer phlox, thin-leafed coreopsis, liatris, yarrow, and wild bergamot mingle with many varieties of annuals to give color. Herbs add fragrance and texture as well as a source for human and caterpillar dining. Beebalm, cardinal flower, closed gentian, forget-me-nots, monkey flower, turtlehead, ragged robin, green-headed coneflower, and swamp milkweed thrive in the moist garden. Canna lilies, papyrus, pickerelweed, chameleon plant, water ruellia, sweet flag, iris, water hyacinth, parrot feather, forget-me-nots, and miniature cattails decorate the pond, home of goldfish and an occasional frog or turtle. Ferns, hostas, wild petunia, hellebores, and impatiens abound in the woodland garden, along with the green reminders of last spring's colorful wildflowers.



Ryder-Vehrs Garden
8318 Highland Street, Manassas



Natives combine with traditional garden plants in this small suburban yard habitat. An island bed alongside the driveway features colorful summer phlox, daylilies, coneflowers, Joe Pye weed, New York ironweed, asters, and goldenrods. New shady beds on the other side of the front yard provide a cool contrast with native ferns, spicebush, hosta, and ground covers. A tall fence and eastern red cedars encase the sunny borders of the back yard. Monarda, with its bright colors, appeals to birds and butterflies, as do other native plants and a butterfly bush. Jewelweed and the berries of Jack-in-the-pulpit provide some color amidst all the cool greens of wood poppies, hellebores, and ground covers in the lower shade garden. Back up the hill a clethra should provide flowers and fragrance amidst a terraced rock bed with hostas, astilbes, and turtlehead. Other beds contain some asters and goldenrods to provide continued blooms amidst ground covers, ferns, and azaleas as the underplanting of spring ephemerals fades from memory. **Refreshments will be served in this garden.**