



# WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society, A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2003-04

July-August 2003

## JULY 21 MEETING

The membership meeting on July 21 at 7:30 p.m. will feature a program by Jenny Salom Lellinger on *Native Ferns and Their Identification*. She conducts programs for the Audubon Naturalist Society and teaches the USDA Graduate School course on Ferns and Fern Allies.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ms. Salom Lellinger received her degree in Library Sciences from the University of Havana. She emigrated in 1972 and was soon hired by the National Geographic Society, where her career took a turn toward the information systems arena. She retired from the Geographic in 2002, a few months short of 30 years, to make yet another career change, this time into the exciting field of natural history.

In 1996 she was awarded a certificate in Natural History Field Studies from the USDA's Graduate School and since then has been practicing her new avocation/career in her "spare" time.

Through his USDA class, Peter Mazzeo, who was then Curator at the National Arboretum, introduced her to the world of ferns, and she was hooked. As a freelance naturalist, she teaches, lectures, and leads walks mostly for the Audubon Naturalist Society on various natural history topics, ranging from macroinvertebrate identification to owls. However, ferns and their allies are still her favorites. Thus, she found herself focusing on deepening her knowledge of pteridophytes and sharing it with others.

Fortunately for her, there was nobody filling the instructor niche for Ferns and Fern Allies at the Graduate School and she seized the opportunity. She submitted a course proposal, it was accepted,

she taught her first course in the summer of 2002, and she was soon known as "the fern lady."

Please note that the meeting will be held in **Conference Room A** on the 4th floor of **Prince William Hospital in Manassas**. Turn into the hospital parking lot off Sudley Road (Rt. 234). As you turn in, you will be facing the hospital's main entrance. Go in the main entrance, and take the elevator to the 4th floor. The elevators are just behind and to the right of the reception desk. Conference Room A is on your left as you exit the elevator.

Following the program, there will be a short business meeting to discuss upcoming events and issues, including plans for the VNPS meeting in September, which will be hosted by PWWS.

Call President Charles Smith at 703-361-5125 for additional information.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### TWO ANNUAL MEETINGS

Watch your mailbox for information about the **VNPS annual meeting** to be hosted in Prince William County September 12-14 and be sure to register right away for this exciting event.

Also watch for a special notice later this summer for the **PWWS annual picnic meeting** in late September or October. All PWWS members will receive the special notice with meeting details.



## From the President - Charles Smith

July will play host to two fun events for PWWS: the Summer Garden Tour and the July Membership Meeting. The Summer Garden Tour on July 20 is a chance to see some great gardens in all of their summer finery and bump into other members and non-members who are plant enthusiasts. The Membership Meeting on July 21 will feature a great program by Jenny Salom Lellinger on native ferns and their identification.

The other big event coming at the end of the summer is the Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Meeting on September 12-14. You will be getting a separate mailing to register for this event. As you know, we are hosting the annual meeting this year. The planning committee has some wonderful field trips and evening events planned. I hope that you will come to the annual meeting as a participant and/or as a worker. Don't miss this chance to attend; after all, when is the next time the annual meeting will be in Prince William County?

In the midst of many other things going on, I had the great fortune to spend parts of two days in the field in late June with Gary Fleming of the Virginia Natural Heritage Program and Rod Simmons, long time VNPS and Maryland Native Plant Society Member. Both are not only nice guys, but also excellent botanists. The experience of being out in the field with them and assisting with plant community surveys was really an eye opener.

I have rudimentary botany skills. But watching them work and asking them questions really opened my eyes. From lowly forb or grass to towering tree, Gary and Rod know this region's flora so well that they are like walking textbooks. The experience was like seeing the plants and plant communities through someone else's eyes. Both Gary and Rod impressed me in three ways: their clear passion for plants and all wildlife, the thousands of hours and many years they have committed to this passion, and their humility. For

all of their knowledge and experience, Gary and Rod were always happy to stop and explain an aspect of the survey protocol or answer the simplest of questions. They always want to be right when it comes to identification or classification, but never at someone else's expense.

Oh, I almost forgot to mention Gary and Rod actually enjoy spending endless hours in the field identifying plants. Go figure! The added bonus on one day that we were out was that in a lowly piece of isolated Northern Virginia forest (isolated by highways and subdivisions) we surveyed a plot that yielded the most species ever recorded in a survey plot in the state of Virginia. Just when you are ready to write off Northern Virginia as lacking species richness and anything left to treasure and save, take a field trip with experienced botanists who enjoy the field, and you may just discover something surprising.

-Charles

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

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Deadline for the July-August issue is September 1, 2003. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St., Manassas, VA 20110-3671 or send email to [nvehrs@attglobal.net](mailto:nvehrs@attglobal.net).



## May 19, 2003, Meeting Minutes

The meeting started at about 7:35 p.m. Marion presented her program on the reasons for a *Flora of Virginia*. The program was very diverse, addressing the underlying geology, weather, climate history, etc. that has led to Virginia having over 3,700 species of plants - the most botanically rich state for its size in the lower 48.

After the presentation, members enjoyed fantastic refreshments provided by Joann. She will bring her pinwheel cookie recipe to the next membership meeting. The speaker is unknown for the next membership meeting, but we will meet at the Prince William Hospital, Conference Room A on July 21 due to the Vacation Bible School activities at the church.

Marion has reserved the auditorium at the NVCC Manassas campus for use for the Friday event at the annual meeting free of charge. Nicky has booked the Candy Factory/Center for the Arts in Old Town for the Saturday event.

Mention was made regarding developments in the Battlefield by-pass and Tri-County Connector road projects. There seems to be an increased focus on eastern alignment for the Tri-County.

Diane reported that the proceeds from the plant sale were \$3,263.14 net. In addition, \$260 was received in memberships. Nancy Arrington sent in the numbers for the number of plants sold (best estimate) as: 880 perennials, 95 ferns, and 46 trees and shrubs. This was a very successful plant sale given the constant heavy rain. Toni Crouch still has ebony spleenwort available in pots.

The current bank balance is \$6999.99.

Marion would love to receive any additional plant donations for the NVCC native plant trail. Martha has some left from the plant sale.

Door prizes were drawn and won by Sue Smith (a persimmon tree), Leo Stoltz (green and gold), with a jasmine also being awarded. Thanks to Jeanne Fowler and Charles for bringing the door prizes.

The meeting broke up at about 9 p.m.

- Diane Flaherty  
Treasurer and Acting-Secretary

Attendees: Sue Smith, Amy Hamilton, Mary Sherman, Karen Waltman, Toni Crouch, Mickey Sullivan, Margaret Lewis, Diane Flaherty, Leo Stoltz, Linda Stoltz, Joann Krumviede, Jeanne Fowler, Helen Walters, William Henderson, Marion Lobstein, Charles Smith

## Next Board Meeting

The next PWWS Board meeting will be held Monday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. The focus of the meeting will be the VNPS annual meeting hosted by PWWS. All members are welcome to attend. For further information, call President Charles Smith at 703-361-5125.

## Nominating Committee Needed

PWWS is seeking members for its Nominating Committee. Members will serve a two-year term, November 1, 2003-October 31, 2005. Nominees will be elected at the PWWS annual picnic meeting. Interested volunteers should contact President Charles Smith.

## Plant Sale Successful Despite Rain

The weather could not have been worse for the annual plant sale on May 10 unless it had snowed! However, native plant enthusiasts are known for being hearty souls and they came to the sale despite the heavy rain. Many thanks to ALL the volunteers at the sale who were so generous with their time and plants. Special thanks to Nancy Arrington, Plant Sale Chair. With such a wet spring, let's hope that everyone managed to get their plants into the ground before the summer heat took hold.

## Events of Interest

**August 2:** Summer Wildflowers at Clark's Crossing Park, VA along the W&OD Bike Trail near Vienna. 8:30-noon. Leader Stan Shetler. Audubon Naturalist Society, \$25. 301-652-9188, x16.

**August 6-7:** Invasive Plants Conference presented by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, Philadelphia, PA. For brochure, contact Morris Arboretum, 100 Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118, 215-247-5777, x159 or email mabxeduc@pobox.upenn.edu. Fee.

**August 7 & 9:** Ferns and Fern Allies, class and field trip. Thursday 7:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday, all-day field trip to Turkey Run Park. Audubon Naturalist Society, \$42. 301-652-9188, x16.

**August 23:** Native Plant Seminar and Sale, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. Fee. 410-484-2413, [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org).

**August 24:** Meadow Wildflower Walk, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Centreville. Reservations required. \$5 fee. 703-631-0013.

**September 6:** Potowmack Chapter Plant Sale, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Green Spring Gardens Park. 703-534-8179.

**September 12-14:** VNPS Annual Meeting hosted by PWWS. Watch mailbox for details. Fee. [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org). Charles Smith, 703-361-5125.

**October 4 - 5:** Multi-State Fall Conference sponsored by the Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia Native Plant Societies and National Park Service. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. This conference will focus on how the Potomac River connects three states, rather than divides them. Registration fee. For more information, contact Meghan Tice, 2003 Regional Conference Chair, [cecropia13@msn.com](mailto:cecropia13@msn.com), or 301-809-0139, Maryland Native Plant Society, PO Box 25, Bowie, MD 20719.



**PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY**  
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society  
PO Box 83, Manassas, VA 20108-0083



**SUMMER GARDEN TOUR**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 20.**  
**SEE INSIDE FOR FLYER.**

exp. 10/03

Nancy Arrington  
8388 Briarmont Lane  
Manassas, VA 20112-2755



**Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Monday, July 21, Community Room, Prince William Hospital, Manassas**

**"Native Ferns and Their Identification"**