



WILD NEWS

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

Number 2004-02

March-April 2004

MARCH 15 MEETING

“Raingardens” is the subject of this month’s program presented by Laura Burrell Baxter, an education senior manager at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s (CBF) headquarters in Annapolis. Raingardens are designed to catch rainwater and slow, decrease, and improve the quality of storm water runoff. Nutrients and sediment pollution are the largest threats to water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The plants in raingardens intercept and slow down runoff, attract habitat, and are very low maintenance. Ms. Baxter will talk about the importance of raingardens, how and where they should be built, and what types of plants should be used.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is the largest conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Its motto, Save the Bay, defines the organization’s mission and commitment to reducing pollution, improving fisheries, and protecting and restoring natural resources such as wetlands, forests, and underwater grasses. CBF has state offices in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. CBF also operates 15 environmental education programs.

Following the program there will be a short business meeting. Members will have the opportunity to sign up to volunteer at the April 25 garden tours and the May 8 plant sale.

The meeting, which is open to the general public, will be held on the usual third Monday of the month, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, corner of Sudley Road/Rt. 234 and Plantation Lane in Manassas.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA WILDFLOWER TRIP

Nicky Staunton and Nancy Arrington are organizing a “pay your own way” trip to see the wildflowers of southwest Virginia May 22 and 23. Sites include Mount Rogers near Marion where we’ll see wildflowers typical of northern boreal forests and the northernmost natural stand of Fraser fir. We’ll also visit the Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve near Lebanon where two globally rare plants, Canby’s mountain lover and Carolina saxifrage, grow in limestone crevices. If time permits, we’ll tour additional local natural areas, including some that Doug Ogle talked about in his presentation at the VNPS annual meeting last September.

The plan is to carpool down on Friday and return on Monday with overnight stays at local motels, although we’re looking into the possibility of renting cabins at Hungry Mother State Park near Marion and staying at a lodge near Lebanon. For more information or to sign up, call Nancy Arrington, 703-368-8431.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mark your calendar now for the May 17 meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church at 7:30 p.m. Joella Killian will present a program on “Insects and How They Relate to Plants.” See the next edition of *Wild News* for details.

Prepare for Plant Sale May 8

The annual PWWS plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. - noon on the grounds of Bethel Lutheran Church on Plantation Lane in Manassas. Plant Sale Chairman Nancy Arrington will have plant labels and instruction sheets for distribution at the March membership meeting. Please consider donating plants for the sale. In addition to traditional native perennials and ferns, native trees, shrubs, and aquatic plants will be sold at the sale. Contact Charles Smith, 703-361-5125, about trees and shrubs for the sale. Shade plants and species that attract butterflies and hummingbirds always sell well.

Members donating plants are urged to coordinate with Nancy Arrington, 703-368-8431, narrington@starpower.net, to label and price their plants *prior to the sale*. The pricing system using colored plastic labels will continue this year. Members offering new plant selections should contact Martha Slover, 571-238-5713, mslover@gmu.edu, to ensure that a photo of a blooming plant is available on sale day. For the healthiest plants, they should be potted up at least two weeks prior to the sale. Please deliver them to the church by 7:30 a.m. on the day of the sale.

The plant sale is a tremendous team effort by many chapter members, and serves as the *only* fundraiser for the chapter. If you would like to participate in this volunteer endeavor in any capacity, please contact Nancy Arrington as listed above.

(Note: President Charles Smith and family recently moved to another location in Manassas. His column will resume in the next issue of *Wild News*.)

Garden Tours in Manassas April 25

This year's garden tour is set for Sunday, April 25 from 12 noon - 5 p.m. The city gardens of Kathy and Don Ehrenberger and Janet Wheatcraft, respectively, both featured on the spring tour in 1995, will be open again this year. Martha Slover's Lake Jackson area garden will be on the spring tour for the first time. The Ehrenberger's backyard garden is a haven for wildlife and features a pond. The Wheatcraft garden is incorporated into a sloping woodland and features many bluebells. The Slover garden is informal and wild.

Tour brochures will be ready in April and mailed to all members. For additional copies, contact Nancy Vehrs at 703-368-2898.

Volunteers are also needed. To serve as a volunteer host or to bring refreshments, call Nancy or email her at nvehrs@attglobal.net.

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Education	OPEN
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Hospitality	OPEN
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Programs	OPEN
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Deadline for the May-June issue is April 28, 2004. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St., Manassas, VA 20110-3671 or send email to nvehrs@attglobal.net.

January Meeting Minutes

The Prince William Wildflower Society met on January 19, 2004, at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, Virginia, for the annual members' slide show. PWWS Vice President Martha Slover welcomed everyone and introduced the presenters: Nicky Staunton, Marion Lobstein, Joann Krumviede, and herself. Thanks to the wonders of photography and technology, the society got a glimpse of the many wildflowers that Nicky Staunton saw on her trip to Newfoundland. She even included pictures of a large fossil. Newfoundland was followed by the Great Lakes. Marion Lobstein's Power Point show of her summer trip around Lake Superior showed us a great variety of plants and geology, and also included a fossil find. Martha's recent canoe trip out of Jupiter, Florida took us down the Loxahatchee River. From Florida we went to Canada, where Joann Krumviede gave us a sampler of the wildflower photos that she took in Banff National Park and at Idaho Peak near Canadian Glacier National Park.

Following the program, members enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Toni Crouch and Joann. Nametags from those attending were collected to select door prizes. The lucky winners were Dawn Lewis, Helen Winn, and Helen Walter. The National Wildlife Federation donated the beautiful door prizes.

A brief business meeting was called to order by Martha Slover. President Charles Smith was not present because of a trip to Spain. No Treasurer's Report was available. Garden Tour Chair Nancy Vehrs announced that volunteers are needed to help with the spring tours, scheduled for April 25, 2004. A sign-up sheet circulated. Nancy is also looking for gardens to include on the tour.

Plant Sale Chair Nancy Arrington announced that the Annual Plant Sale is May 8, 2004. She will bring plant labels and plant sign-ups to the March meeting.

Nicky Staunton reminded members that the VNPS Winter Workshop is March 6, 2004 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond. The theme

is "Virginia's Biological Diversity." Nicky also talked about the continuing work on the *Flora of Virginia* project. Keys are under review and many new illustrations are complete. Gifts are still needed to continue the project.

Toni Crouch encouraged members to attend the Piedmont Chapter symposium on February 3, 2004, in Middleburg. The presentations center on the health and conservation of forests. Botany Chair Marion Lobstein confirmed that she would be teaching the summer course in Field Botany at Blandy. Detailed information is available from Marion.

Members asked Nicky to hold a class in photography, particularly digital photography. She agreed to do a "field class." Anyone who is interested should contact Nicky.

Other upcoming events include a VNPS sponsored Southwest Virginia field trip in the May-June time frame. VNPS will not sponsor a Bruce Peninsula trip this year. The trip is offered by the Botanical Society. In July, the "Seeds of Success" training session is planned. Seeds of Success is part of an international program and in the United States is "an interagency program coordinated through the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA) that supports and coordinates seed collection of native plant populations in the United States to increase the number of species and the amount of native seed that is available for use in stabilizing, rehabilitating and restoring lands in the United States."

Helen Walter moved to adjourn the meeting. Joann Krumviede seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Cochard, Secretary*

Members and Guests Present: Nancy Arrington, Phyllis & Paul Boyd, Charlotte Cochard, Toni Crouch, Don & Kathy Ehrenberger, Jeanne Endrikat, Lisa Filipy, Jeanne Fowler, William Hendrickson, Gary Knipling, Joann Krumviede, Denise Lindquist, Marion Lobstein, Erna Pomrenke, Margaret Runyan, Jennifer Shepard, Martha Slover, Nicky Staunton, Nancy Vehrs, Helen Walter, Helen Winn

Events of Interest

March 11: *The Diversity of Virginia's Flora* presented by Marion Lobstein to the Potowmack Chapter, 7:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens Park.

March 13: Winter Lecture at Blandy Library, State Arboretum, 9:30 a.m.- noon, *How Plants get the Invasive Label* by Kevin Heffernan, followed by *Native Alternatives to Common Invasive Plants* by Claudia Thompson-Diehl. \$20 for VNPS members, \$24 for non-members.

March 21: Marion Lobstein resumes her monthly wildflower walks, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Great Falls Park, Va. Contact Marion at 703-536-7150 or by email at mblobstein@earthlink.net for further information.

March 27: Lahr Symposium *Landscapes in Balance*, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., National Arboretum Administrative Building Auditorium. To register, call 202-245-5898.

March 27: March 27, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, State Arboretum *Spring Lecture Series: From Field to Forest*. What happens when old farm fields go fallow? They become forests! Blandy research scientists T'ai Roulston and Michael Bowers will talk about how plant and animal communities evolve and how changes in land management influence regional ecology. Peetwood Pavilion for Environmental Education. FEE: \$45 FOOSA, \$55 nonmembers; *reservations required by March 19*, 540-837-1758 or email at ejd4u@virginia.edu.

March 27: Native Plant Sale, National Arboretum, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Administrative Building East Terrace.

April 3: Spring Wildflower Walk at State Arboretum at Blandy Farm, 10 a.m. - noon. No reservations needed.

April 8 and 15: *Spring Wildflowers Workshop* with Marion Lobstein, sponsored by the Fairfax Audubon Society, Fairfax High School. \$60 fee. 703-256-6895 to register.

April 8: *Vegetative Ecology of the Potomac Gorge* presented by Gary Fleming, 7:30 p.m., Potowmack Chapter, Green Spring Gardens Park.

April 10: Native Plant Sale, 10-11 a.m., Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd.,

Arlington, VA, 22204. For more information call 703-228-6535.

April 17: Wildflower Walk with Rod Simmons at Difficult Run (near Great Falls), 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Registration required, 703-920-1913, shirleywg@comcast.net.

April 18: Marion Lobstein's monthly wildflower walk, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Great Falls Park, Va. Contact Marion at 703-536-7150 or by email at mblobstein@earthlink.net for further information.

April 18 (tentative): Balls Bluff wildflower walk led by Marion Lobstein, 2 - 4:30 p.m. Contact Marion at 703-536-7150 or by email at mblobstein@earthlink.net for further information.

April 18: Bluebell Walk, Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, 2 p.m. Join the area's oldest established wildflower walk and view acres and acres of fairy-tale-like, misty bluebells on the fields and creek banks at this 1,500-acre park. The bluebells at Bull Run are said to be the largest stand on the east coast. The naturalist-guided Sunday walk is free. Groups and individuals may arrange to come on self-guided tours the week before and the week after the public walk. Free, self-guiding tour pamphlets will be available at the camp center. 703-528-5406.

April 24: Spring Fling 2004, Prince William County Cooperative Extension's 5th Annual Garden Expo. Displays, vendors, kids' activities, and more. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Free parking, free admission; Call 703-792-7747 for information.

April 25: Annual PWWS Spring Garden Tour of three member gardens in the Manassas area, 12 noon - 5 p.m.. Brochure will be available in April. 703-368-2898.

April 25: Wildflower Walk with Stan Shetler at Turkey Run, 2 - 4:30 p.m. 703-920-1913.

May 8: PWWS Wildflower Plant Sale, Bethel Lutheran Church, 9 a.m. - noon. 703-368-8431.

May 15: Potowmack Chapter Native Plant Sale, Green Spring Gardens Park., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

May 16: Marion Lobstein's monthly wildflower walk, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Great Falls Park, Va. Contact Marion at 703-536-7150 or by email at mblobstein@earthlink.net for further information.

Net Finds

PWWS Treasurer Diane Flaherty offers the following British website about wildlife gardening: <http://www.wildlife-gardening.org.uk/>. She also recommends the website of rare books from the Missouri Botanical Gardens Library at <http://ridgwaydb.mobot.org/mobot/rarebooks/index.asp>. This ongoing project currently features 46 digitized volumes; 16,133 pages and 2,050 botanical illustrations are currently available. It is browsable by title or author. Many of its beautifully illustrated volumes date from before the photographic era.

As noted in the March 2004 edition of the newsletter of the Pocahontas Chapter, Robert Wright recommends the native plant section of the website of the Tennessee Valley Authority at www.tva.gov/river/landandshore/stabilization/plantsearch.htm. He also recommends the US government's PLANTS website at <http://plants.usda.gov/index.htm>. As noted on the site, "The PLANTS Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories."

"Save Crow's Nest" Launches Website

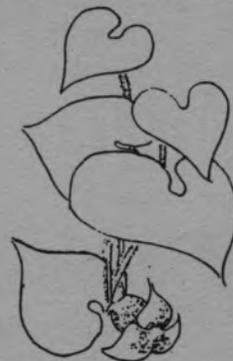
"Save Crow's Nest," a group of local citizens opposed to development of the Crow's Nest peninsula in neighboring Stafford County, is expanding its efforts to preserve the nearly 4,000 acres situated between Accokeek and Potomac Creeks. The group unveiled a new website, www.savecrowsnest.org, to communicate the latest news about its preservation efforts. At five miles long and an average of two miles wide, Crow's Nest is one of the largest unfragmented forests in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In the words of Gary Fleming, Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, "Overall, Crow's Nest supports one of the finest-if not the finest-upland hardwood forests remaining in the Virginia Coastal Plain."

Wild Ginger - Native for the Garden

Good foliage plants such as wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) help sustain interest in the woodland garden beyond the great burst of color in spring. Its handsome heart-shaped leaves will last until frost in deep, rich, moist, acid to slightly acid soil in the shady garden. It can be massed as a ground cover, used as an edging plant along a path or trail or interplanted with taller wildflowers.

Shade and moisture are the secrets to successful cultivation of wild ginger. It grows well in light, moderate, or deep shade, and strongly resents direct sun which can burn the leaves. Possible planting locations are beneath evergreens, on the north or west sides of the house, or in an area completely shaded by trees.

Plants will need constant moisture to remain attractive throughout the summer. Add large quantities of moisture retentive materials such as peat, well-rotted manure, or composted leaves to deeply-dug planting areas. Mulch plants well and water during summer dry spells. In *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers* Harry Phillips that says wild ginger is a good indicator plant since its leaves are among the first to wilt at the beginning of a drought. The conscientious gardener sees this as a reminder to begin watering.



Wild Ginger

(*Asarum canadense*)

You'll know your wild ginger is happy when it begins to spread as described by the late Sen. George Aiken in *Pioneering with Wildflowers*: "Creeping erratically along the ground as if it is not sure just where it is going, the Wildginger
(Continued on next page)

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hesitates every few inches to send up its large, downy, heart shaped leaves.

Phillips suggest interplanting wild ginger with taller species such as Solomon's seal, cardinal flower, and bellwort, and as a textural contrast for clumping (not spreading) ferns such as cinnamon, maidenhair, and Christmas.

As with other shade-loving natives, a moist cold period is required for good germination. Seed can be sown immediately after collection in a shaded outdoor bed or stored in moist whole-fiber sphagnum in a sealed container in the refrigerator for spring planting. Cuttings taken in late spring and summer root well in a mix of equal parts sand and peat.

Most wildflower gardening catalogs carry several species of ginger and *A. canadense* is usually available at PWWS's plant sale.

-Nancy Arrington

(Ed. note: The preceding article was originally printed in the March/April 1987 edition of Wild News.)

Summer Wildflower Course

Marion Lobstein is once again offering her summer field botany course at Blandy Experimental Farm at the State Arboretum in Boyce, near Winchester. This year's dates are June 21-24, June 28-July 1, and July 5-8. After this year she will offer this course only every other year. Contact Marion at 703-536-7150, or by email at mblobstein@earthlink.net, for further information.

April Board Meeting

The PWWS Board will next meet on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church in Manassas. Board meetings are also open to all members. Call President Charles Smith at 703-361-5125 for further information.

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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



exp. 10/04

Nancy Arrington
8388 Briarmont Lane
Manassas, VA 20112-2755

 **Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 15, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas**
"Rain Gardens"