



WILD NEWS

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

Number 2004-05

September-October 2004

SEPT 26 ANNUAL MEETING

Join your fellow members on Sunday, September 26 at 1 p.m. at James Long Park in Haymarket for the annual PWWS meeting. The election of officers is on the agenda as well as a ratification of the annual budget, a potluck picnic, and a wildflower walk. Non-members and guests are most welcome to attend too.

As noted in the special meeting notification mailing, the current officers are all on the slate for reelection:

President: Charles Smith
Vice-President: Martha Slover
Secretary: Charlotte Cochard
Treasurer: Diane Flaherty

Members who cannot attend are urged to return their absentee ballots to ensure a quorum for the election in accordance with chapter bylaws.

The agenda is as follows:

- 1 p.m. Potluck Picnic (Please bring a salad, vegetable, main dish or dessert. PWWS will provide beverages, plates, cups, and utensils.)
- 2:30 pm. Chapter Business Meeting
President's Report
Election of Officers
Vote on Proposed Budget (see page two.)
- 3 p.m. Plant swap and wildflower walks. (Bring any plants you would like to share.)

The park is located on Route 15, approximately 2.5 miles north of I-66 and one mile south of the intersection of Routes 15 and 234. Once in the

park, look for PWWS signs to direct you to the picnic pavilion. The weather can be cool and breezy; be sure to dress appropriately to stay comfortable.

James S. Long Regional Park is a Prince William County Park and a VNPS Registry site. The area remains undeveloped and acts as a buffer to Catharpin Creek. Site registry emphasizes the importance of the area and encourages protection as encroaching development threatens habitat changes. The site offers open woods and meadow with many late summer bloomers. Fringed gentian (*Gentiana crinita*) can be found here, but as PWWS Vice President Martha Slover discovered, it is well guarded by poison ivy. Come prepared if you wish to seek out this treasure. Other trails are more friendly.

For more information, contact President Charles Smith at 703-361-5125.



Closed' Gentian
(*Gentiana clausa*)

LOOKING AHEAD

The next regular membership meeting will be held Monday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church in Manassas. Program details will appear in the next edition of *Wild News*.

Proposed FY 2005 Budget

Treasurer Diane Flaherty submitted the following proposed budget for the fiscal year November 1, 2004 - October 31, 2005. Members will vote on this proposal at the annual meeting.

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$1,000	
Plant Sale	3,800	
Total		\$4,800

DISBURSEMENTS

Postage	\$ 875	
Printing	1,350	
Gifts (Includes Bethel Lutheran contrib. for meeting space)	550	
Meeting Expenses (e.g. refreshments, speaker fees, PWWS annual meeting)	1,000	
Sales Tax	200	
Special Events (e.g. plant sale and garden tours)	825	
Total		\$4,800

The Fall Garden

Wildflower gardening does not end with the summer season. Natives in bloom in my mid-Sept. garden include goldenrods, asters, blue mistflower, obedient plant, turtlehead, sunflowers, black-eyed Susans, and strawberry bush. Even a few phlox are still flowering. Bristly seed heads from purple coneflowers feed goldfinches. The winterberry holly and dogwoods have formed bright red berries for the birds. Swamp sunflowers are budded and promise to bloom next month.

- Nancy Vehrs

October Board Meeting

The PWWS Board will next meet on October 18. Board meetings are also open to all members, and they serve as a good introduction to the Society's inner workings for anyone considering a Board position. Call President Charles Smith at 703-361-5125 for further information.

Board Members Sought

PWWS is seeking members who would like to become more involved. The PWWS Board of Directors conducts the behind-the-scenes operation of the Society, and meets in alternate months from the regular membership meetings. Several important positions are unfilled including Program Chair (presently being covered by the President), Conservation Chair, and Education Chair. Contact Charles Smith if you are interested in serving.

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

President	Charles Smith, 703-361-5125 chrissmith@juno.com
Vice President	Martha Slover, 571-238-5713
Secretary	Charlotte Cochard, 703-330-6960
Treasurer	Diane Flaherty, 703-330-9862
Botany	Marion Lobstein, 703-536-7150
Conservation	OPEN
Education	OPEN
Flora Liaison	Regina Yurkonis, 540-937-2312
Hospitality	OPEN
Membership Programs	Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898
Plant Sale	OPEN
Publicity	Nancy Arrington, 703-368-8431
Refreshments	Leo Stoltz, 703-791-6175
Registry Site	Joann Krumviede, 703-938-4378
Editor	Claudia Thompson-Deahl, 703-754-9235
Original Artwork	Nancy Vehrs, 703-368-2898
	Nicky Staunton, 703-368-9803

Deadline for the November-December issue is **November 1, 2004**. Mail information to Nancy Vehrs at 8318 Highland St., Manassas, VA 20110-3671 or send email to nvehrs@attglobal.net.

July Meeting Minutes

The Prince William Wildflower Society met on July 19, 2004, at Prince William Hospital Conference Room. Chapter president Charles Smith opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and introduced Jim Waggener, past president of the Fairfax Audubon Society. Jim gave background on the Fairfax Audubon Society (FAS), the Northern Virginia chapter of the National Audubon Society, and a thorough description of the "Audubon at Home" project. The project is an expansion of a seed project that began in Seattle in 1999. The society received a \$500,000 federal grant for nation-wide distribution of the program. The goals of "Audubon at Home" in the Northern Virginia region are to draw attention to the unique and fragile habitats of the region, to encourage the preservation of those habitats and the enhancement of quality natural areas, and to promote healthier habitats for homes and communities.

Demonstration sites and existing ongoing representative sites throughout Northern Virginia were selected to increase public awareness about how it is possible to create and/or enhance natural habitats, with less emphasis on lawns, less use of pesticides and sound practices for water conservation and water quality. Jim introduced Carol Hadlock and Robin Rentsch, who explained the "Audubon at Home" Garden Tours being held on Saturday, July 24. Tour brochures were distributed to everyone at the meeting. Jim encouraged everyone to use the website, www.audubon.org, for current information and updates on the program. The FAS is looking for suggestions for "Audubon at Home" sites in Prince William County.

Following Jim's presentation, Charles Smith continued the theme of enhancing natural and created habitats with a slide show on "Landscaping for Wildlife." He emphasized the need for "rough edges" – transition areas between developed and natural areas – to support wildlife. Beautiful photographs of "local critters" reminded all of the habitat needs of wildlife.

Following a break so that the members and guests could enjoy refreshments provided by Toni Crouch, Charles convened a short business mtg.

Treasurer's report: Diane Flaherty reported a balance of \$7588.99. There is one outstanding payment of state sales tax for the plant sale. Charles announced that a chapter contribution to the *Flora of Virginia* Project is appropriate.

Membership: Nancy Vehrs announced that the current chapter membership is 115-120.

Newsletter: Editor Nancy Vehrs announced that she is always looking for articles for the newsletter and appreciates suggestions and contributions.

Flora of Virginia Project: Nicky Staunton reported that a fundraising gala will be held in November at Meadowlark Gardens. Nicky also related she is among ten VNPS members recently trained to collect seed and herbarium specimens for the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew Botanical Gardens, Great Britain. Nicky informed the members that the Occoquan National Wildlife Refuge is now open 7 a.m to 7 p.m. every day. Anyone interested in field trips should contact Nicky.

Annual Meeting: The PWWS annual meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2004. Charles is looking for suggestions for a location. The nominating committee (Leo Stoltz, Linda Stoltz, Nancy Arrington, Carol Nelson, and Karen Waltman) is working on a slate for the chapter elections. Non-elected positions are also available. A Program Chairperson is especially needed. The meeting announcement will be mailed in August.

VNPS Annual Meeting: The Jefferson Chapter is hosting the VNPS annual meeting on October 2, 2004, in Charlottesville. See the VNPS *Bulletin* for more information.

*Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Cochard, Secretary*

Attendees: Kathy Adams, Joyce Andrew, Nancy Arrington, Tiana Camfiord, Charlotte Cochard, Toni Crouch, Lisa Filipy, Frank Filipy, Diane Flaherty, Carol Hadlock (FAS), Maggie Hart, William Hendrickson, Dawn Lewis, Margaret Lewis, Suzanne Parker, Robin Rentsch (FAS), Mary Sherman, Charles Smith, Nicky Staunton, Leo & Linda Stoltz, Esther Thompson, Nancy Vehrs, Jim Waggener, and Helen Walter.

Enter Drawing for Mountain Getaway to Canaan Valley

Enter the VNPS fundraiser drawing to win up to four days in a two-bedroom house in Old Timberline in the picturesque mountains of Canaan Valley, West Virginia. Explore the adjacent Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge and nearby state parks of Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley.

Tickets are a \$15 tax-deductible donation, or a \$40 donation for three tickets. Coupon tickets can be found on page five of the August 2004 edition of the *Bulletin* at <http://www.vnps.org/vnpsaug04.pdf>.

The drawing will be held at the VNPS Spring Workshop in 2005.

Events of Interest

September 25: Potowmack Chapter's Fall Plant Sale at Green Spring Garden's Fall Fling, 12 noon - 4 p.m. For info, 703-534-8746 or 703-644-1760.

October 2: VNPS Annual Meeting, Charlottesville,

Speaker Tom Dieraug - *Virginia's Changing Forests—Past, Present and Future*, annual elections and reports, diverse field trips, and more. See the August *Bulletin*, or visit the website, www.vnps.org for the registration form.

October 2: Native Plant Sale at ParkFairfax, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nine plant vendors will gather in the parking area near the corner of Gunston Road and Valley Drive to sell native trees, shrubs, and perennials. ParkFairfax is located across I-395 from Shirlington. From I-395, exit at Shirlington/Quaker exit onto Quaker Lane. At the first light on Quaker, turn left onto Preston Road. Follow Preston to where it joins Valley Drive. Cross Gunston Road; look for parking lot on rt.

October 20: Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting, Green Spring Gardens, Reception 7:15 p.m., meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. J. Douglas Ripley presents *Botany in the Washington, D.C. Region: A Historical Overview*.

November 11: Potowmack Chapter Meeting, Green Spring Gardens, 7:30 p.m. Program on Oak Hybridization presented by Alan Whittemore.




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: 1 p.m., Sunday, September 26, James Long Park, Haymarket Annual Meeting and Election**

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