

WILD NEWS



Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2005-04

July-August 2005

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JULY 18 MEETING – Naturalist and horticulturist Theresa DeFluri will discuss and demonstrate the use of native plants in decoration. The program will include a demonstration and discussion on flower arranging using both native and cultivated species. **Time: 7:30 p.m. at the Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Lane, Manassas.** Call Charles Smith for more details on the program. All are welcome, so bring a friend or two and spend a summer's evening devoted to beautiful flowers.

OCTOBER 2 – PWWS Annual Meeting at Leesylvania State Park. Directions and details about the meeting will be forthcoming in the September *WildNews* and at the July 18 meeting. A **Site Chair** is needed for the Annual Meeting – please *call Charles Smith* for details or to volunteer.

CHAPTER NOTES

PWWS SPRING PLANT SALE

Thanks to the hard work of many PWWS members, this year's plant sale was highly successful and went smoothly. Members who brought plants were Tiana Camfiord, Charlotte Cochard, Marie Davis, Kathy Ehrenberger, Jeanne Endrikat, Deanna High, Tracy Johnson, Joann Krumviede, Frances Louer, Wendy Pierce, Martha Slover, Charles Smith, and Nancy Vehrs. All helped at the

sale as did Kathy Adams, Paul Davis, Don Ehrenberger, Amy Hamilton, Bill Holbrook, Gary Johnson, Linda Stoltz, and Sallie Strecker.

Our total income for plants was \$2,845 and we collected \$505 in memberships. We had around 120 customers and we hope they will all be back next year!

Again, we are very grateful to **Karen Rexrode** at **Windy Hill Farms** nursery for ordering our plant labels and allowing us to use her equipment to print them out (special thanks to **Joann Krumviede** for typing and printing.) Karen carries a wonderful selection of native species and cultivars in addition to nonnatives at her nursery, Windy Hill, located at 40413 John Mosby Hwy, Aldie, Virginia (phone 703/327-4211 or www.windyhill.net). Please join us in supporting Karen's regional commitment with your plant purchasing dollars.

THANKS FOR PUBLICITY A big "thank you" goes to our publicity chair, **Leo Stoltz**. His contact with the *Journal Messenger/Potomac News* resulted in a very nice article about this spring's garden tour. A picture of and interview with **Marie Davis** were included in the article. Because of this publicity we had a great turnout for the garden tour in spite of less than perfect weather. -*Nancy Arrington, Plant Sale Chairman*

**Prince William Wildflower Society
Membership Meeting, May 16, 2005**

The Prince William Wildflower Society (PWWS) met on May 16, 2005 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, Virginia. Chapter president **Charles Smith** called the meeting to order at 7:35pm and introduced **Martin Ogle**, Chief Naturalist at Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to speak on the topic of "**Wildlife of the Bull Run - Occoquan Corridor.**"

Martin began with a brief introduction to the Regional Park System - encompassing 19 parks in three counties and pointed to the website at www.potomacoverlook.org for more information. He proceeded to tell those gathered "a story of a place in which wildlife keeps popping up," - a broader way of think about the animals and their environment together as a living system. Throughout the presentation he used slides and stories from his personal experience to captivate the audience with the linkages of animals and their responses to an ever-changing environment. Some of the featured animals were the great blue heron, bald eagle, flathead catfish, snapping turtle, and wood duck. He reminded the group that it is unwise to look at a species only as a separate entity because there are linkages and symbiotic relationships that influence both. Martin's "Show and Tell" featuring a red tailed hawk, which has been a resident at Potomac Overlook for 22 years due to an injured wing, highlighted the program.

After the program, the following announcements were made:

Nicky Staunton reminded all that the Tri-County Parkway project is in the "comments to VDOT stage" and she encouraged members to register their views. Background and contact information was available from Nicky.

Marion Lobstein announced that the *Flora of Virginia* Project is proceeding with a website for educational uses. Profits from the sale of her Spring Wildflowers video/DVD are going to the project. Cassettes and DVDs are available from Marion for \$16. Marion also announced that Spring Beauties are needed for the NVCC-Manassas campus wildflower garden.

Treasurer Diane Flaherty announced the plant sale results: \$4,370.35 total of which \$3,875.35 was for plant sales. The board plans to make a donation to the Flora project.

Nancy Vehrs reported that the Spring Garden Tours were very successful with approximately 150 visitors per garden. Summer tours are tentative, pending members volunteering their gardens.

While the members enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Joann Krumviede, nametags were drawn for the door prizes. The lucky winners were Nancy Vehrs, Nancy Arrington, and Linda Stoltz.

The July meeting on July 18, 2005 will include a presentation by Theresa DeFluri on use of natives ornamentally.

Twenty-nine members attended. Names were not recorded.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Cochard, Secretary

Joann Krumviede's home was the scene of a June 1 backyard habitat photo shoot in conjunction with a new television series from the National Wildlife Federation and Animal Planet. Results of the photo shoot will appear in the press kit and other promotions for the show. The first program in the series, entitled "Backyard Habitat," airs on **August 15**.

NOTE: There is no September meeting! BUT please mark your calendar and plan to attend a fruitful and fun annual meeting session on **Sunday, October 2 at Leesylvania State Park**. More details to follow in the September newsletter.

UPDATE on Flora of Virginia Project: The PWWS board voted to donate an additional \$1,000 to the FVP at the PWWS board meeting on June 20. For a copy of the complete minutes of the meeting, contact Deanna High at viburnum@verizon.net or Charles Smith at chr1ssmith@juno.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Nominating Committee members are needed for PWWS officer elections in September. Please contact **Charles Smith** at chr1ssmith@juno.com or 703/361-5125 for more details.

Position of Historian of the Prince William Native Plant Society is open. The PWWS historian duties include keeping and continuing the chapter's scrapbook of plant sales, newsletters, photographs, and other events and images associated with PWWS over the years. Contact *Nancy Arrington* for more information on volunteering for this fun and useful position.

Volunteer(s) needed to help Joann Krumviede (Refreshments) set up the coffee urn and with cleanup after PWWS meetings. Please contact Joann at 703/938-4378 (or just pitch in!)

Site Chairman needed for the October 2 Annual Meeting – please *call Charles Smith* for details.

The *Virginia Native Plant Society* is seeking state board members for several positions. For more information, please contact Sally

Anderson, 4ccsca@visuallink.com or the VNPS website, www.vnps.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Charles Smith

Of Yellow Flowers and Insects

It is usually walking the dog these days that I have my best wildflower encounters. As seasons change you notice, and look forward to, the progression of species that brighten the landscape. Over the past week I have been seeing fleabane, white vervain, oxeye daisy, yarrow, honewort, enchanter's nightshade, butterfly weed, common milkweed, trumpet vine and many other white, purple, orange and blue species. But what has struck me is the appearance of **YELLOW!**

Yellow flowers are generally absent from the spring landscape. As summer progresses they suddenly burst forth everywhere: shrubby, common, spotted and small-flowered St. John's Wort, woodland sunflowers, black-eyed susans, smooth false foxglove, wild indigo, sorrels, cinquefoils, St. Andrew's cross – the list goes on and on. It is as if the earth has this yellow inside it that is not released until it is heated to the right temperature. It then bubbles out through plant stems and into their reproductive parts.

That last thought brings us closer to the real truth, of course, for it is not for us that the flowers bloom. It is for their pollinators. It must be something about the light this time of year and the way it reflects off the petals – that plus the types of insects that are seeking food from nectar sources in the summer and fall. In any event, it works both ways, as many of the pollinators have probably learned to seek yellow flowers this time of year because of their abundance.

The other event in the last couple of weeks has to do with two insect species that don't care about flower nectar and probably ignore all flowers. I encountered the first while engaged in my favorite, or at least most frequent, outdoor activity – yes – walking the dog.

We are blessed with an abundance of eastern hemlock. I looked over on a bank where my neighbor has two young, healthy saplings, only to discover white stuff resembling lint stuck along several twigs on the plant. It was hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), a very small insect believed to be from Asia that preys on hemlocks and kills or weakens them making them more susceptible to other infestations and diseases.

Woolly adelgid apparently has been in the United States since 1924 (see <http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/>). It is a serious pest of eastern hemlock and Carolina hemlock. On the east coast of North America, it is present from northeastern Georgia to southeastern Maine and west to eastern Tennessee. It has wiped out huge stands of hemlock in Shenandoah National Park and George Washington National Forest in Virginia. It exemplifies the threats we face from exotic, invasive species.

The second insect on my mind appeared while I was watching TV with my kids in the family room one night. A large butterfly-like creature flew into the light on the deck and finally landed on the sliding glass door. We were being treated to the adult form of the largest of our giant silkworm moths, the cecropia. With about a 5 inch wingspread, deep rusty coloration interrupted with patterns and wing spots, and a big hairy body, the cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) is impressive the same way a monarch or tiger swallow tail butterfly is impressive. (see <http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/content/animals/sp>

ecies/2762.html or *A Field Guide to the Insects of America North of Mexico* by Donald Borror and Richard White (p.232 and plate 10.)

Cecropia caterpillars spin large brown cocoons that change to gray with age and are as tough as leather. The cocoon is attached to a branch or even the side of a house or shed and sometimes incorporates the branch and even twigs into its structure. The caterpillar eats the leaves of many trees and shrubs, including ash, birch, alder, elm, maple, wild cherry, willow, apple, and lilac. Adults do not eat.

My observations of yellow flowers, woolly adelgid, and cecropia moth all occurred within a couple of hundred yards of one another. They are part of the same landscape even if they do not directly interact.



Cecropia Moth by Brian Kenney

As people continue to disturb the landscape and invasive species spread, I just hope to keep a balance and preserve as many of the pieces as possible. I can start by appreciating what is here and talking to my neighbor about options for trying to control the woolly adelgid before it spreads. **-Charles Smith**

EVENTS OF NOTE

July 17 – Bees, Butterfiles, and Blossoms: the Biology of a Partnership, 9 am – 2pm. Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Studies in Loudon County, with Cliff fair-weather and Kimberly Winter. Sponsored by Audubon

Naturalist Society. \$31 for nonmembers. For info call 301/652-9188 x16.

July 23 – Butterflies and Wildflowers of Harper's Ferry, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Stephanie Mason and Pat Durkin. Audubon Naturalist Society, \$38 for nonmembers. Call 301/652-9188 x16 for more information.

July 23 – Introduction to Summer Wildflowers, 9am – 2pm, Great Falls Park, with Cris Fleming. Nonmembers \$32. Sponsored by Audubon Naturalist Society. For more info, call 301/652-9188 x16.

July 24 – The Summer Meadow, 8am to noon, with Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar. Sponsored by Audubon Naturalist Society. \$28 for nonmembers. Call 301/652-9188 x16 for more info.

July 26, August 9, and August 23 – Weekly tours of Bartholdi Park in the U.S. Botanic Garden with knowledgeable USBG staff and volunteers. Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Free, but pre-registration is requested.

July 27 – August 17 – Summer Wildflower Identification, with Cris Fleming, Audubon Naturalist Society. Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, 7pm – 9pm. \$215 fee. Call 301/652-9188 x16 for more information.

July 28 and July 30 – The Natural and Cultural History of the Ag Reserve. Thursday evening, 7:30-9:30 and Saturday full-day field trip, led by Stephanie Mason, Dolores Milmore, Melanie Choukas-Bradley. Audubon Naturalist Society, \$46 fee for nonmembers. 301/652-9188 x16 for more info.

August 16 & 17 – **Invasive Plants: Perspectives, Prescriptions, and Partnerships.** University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, and the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Cost is \$175 for the two day conference; \$95 for one day. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.morrisarboretum.org.

August 20 – Green Plate Breakfast, **State of the Environment, Prince William.** The Prince William Conservation Alliance, with Charlie Grymes, Chairman of the Alliance. Breakfast is 8:30 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, 2942 Prince William Pkwy, Potomac Mills area. See www.pwconserve.org for directions. *August 27* – Take a Hike and Explore the Davis Property, a 135-acre parcel protected by Prince William citizens and transferred to the Civil War Preservation Trust. Walk Leaders are Charlie Grymes and Kevin Parker of the Prince William Conservation Alliance. 5:00 p.m. to dusk. More details at the Alliance website, www.pwconserve.org

August 27 – **Runnymede Chapter Walk, Runnymede Park (VNPS Registry Site).** Rod Simmons, site registry chair, will lead the field trip, which is from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bring a lunch, water, and sun and insect protection. The park is home to over 100 species of birds, deer, fox, and other wildlife, as well as over 450 plant species. Dozens of summer wildflowers should be in bloom. **Directions:** From either route 7 or Fairfax Country Parkway, take Route 606 (Baron Cameron Avenue/Elden St.) west into Herndon. Turn right on Herndon Parkway. Runnymede park is on the right c. half a mile down.

September 10 – **Fall Plant Sale at Green Spring.** Contact Greenspring for more information on this event.

September 10 – GreenPlate Breakfast – Saving Special Places with Chris Kolowoski from the Civil War Preservation Trust, Harvey Simon with the Friends of Manassas National Battlefield Park, and Jack Hermansen with the Sudley Mountain Sony Ridge Civic Association. Old Country Buffet, 8121 Sudley Road, Manassas, at 8:30 a.m.. See the Prince William Conservation Alliance website, www.pwconserve.org for more details.

September 16-17 – The 24th Annual Meeting of the **Virginia Native plant Society** will be

held in conjunction with the Coastal Plain Native Plant Conference on Friday, September 6 and Saturday, September 17 at the Norfolk Botanical Garden and Old Dominion University. Keynote speaker for the Friday evening presentation is Larry Early, author of *Looking for Longleaf: The Rise of an American Forest*. Field trips are planned for Zuni Pine Barrens, the Great Dismal Swamp, First Landing State Park, or private gardens landscaped with native plants. See the July *Bulletin* for more details or VNPS website, www.vnps.org.

September 24 – Virginia Environmental Assembly. Save the Date for this gathering of citizens, elected officials, conservation and environmental groups, and conservation leaders from across the state to discuss the issues affecting the state's natural resources. The location for the meeting is Ashland; for a schedule of events and registration information, contact **Carey Whitehead** at carey.vcn@gmail.com.

October 2--PWWS Annual Meeting, Leesylvania State Park. More details in September newsletter, or come to the July meeting, or call **Charles Smith** at 703/361-5125.

READING CORNER

Roundup of New and Notable Books and Other Publications

Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains, by Leonard M. Adkins. Photos by Joe Cook. Birmingham, Ala.: Menasha Ridge Press, 2005. Paper, \$19.95. Features full-page color photos, summary descriptions, bloom season, leaves and stem descriptions, and areas of growth. Available online at www.menasharidge.com

Lichens above Treeline: A Hiker's Guide to Alpine Zone Lichens of the Northeastern United States, by Ralph Pope. University Press of New England, 2005. "A beautifully illustrated and practical guide to the alpine lichens...Worth the carry for climbers and

hikers heading for the hills." – Irwin Brodo, Lichenologist at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Paper, \$19.95. Available online at <http://www.upne.com/1-58465-402-3.html>.

Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening & Conservation, by Donald J. Leopold. Portland, Ore.: Timber Press, 2005.

Cloth, 308pp. On sale at 20% off through August 15; online at www.timberpress.com.

Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat: Forest Management for the New England Region, by Richard M. DeGraaf, et al. University of Vermont Press, 2005. Paper, \$16.95. An easy-to-use guide for private landowners who want to enhance the quality of their wildlife habitat, timber values, and the appearance of forest lands. Available online at <http://www.upne.com/1-58465-467-8.html>

Butterflies of the East Coast: An Observer's Guide by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor. Princeton University Press, 2005. Cloth, \$49.50. Online at www.pupress.princeton.edu.

Check out the *Native Plant Information Network* through the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website, www.wildflower2.org. The Network includes databases of information on over 5,200 wildflower species and over 17,000 images, along with a botanical glossary and bibliography. -*Diane Flaherty*

NEIGHBORS

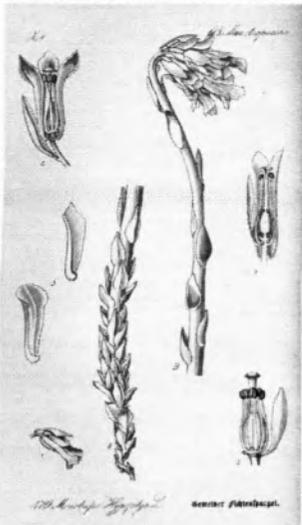
Partners for Open Space is a coalition of 90 organizations in Maryland (including the Trust for Public Land) that is mounting a major campaign to restore full funding to Maryland's besieged land conservation programs. A recent poll sponsored by Partners for Open Space shows that seven out of ten Maryland voters polled expressed strong support for a new law requiring program Open Space – Maryland's premiere conservation program – to be used only for

conservation, and to prevent the governor and state legislature from using it for any other purpose. For updates on the group's efforts, visit www.savemarylandlands.org.

The *Virginia Wetlands Report* (Spring 2005) 20 no. 1 contains the annual summary of permitted tidal wetland impacts of 2004. The Wetlands program database has tracked cumulative impacts to Virginia's coastal resources authorized through the permitting process since 1988.

INDIAN PIPE

Monotropa uniflora, commonly called Indian pipe, is a perennial member of the Ericaceae (heath family), but may sometimes be placed in the Pyrolaceae (pyrola) family. This very unusual, waxy appearing plant is icy white to light pink and looks more like a fungus than a flowering plant. This species, which usually appears in clusters of individual plants, blooms by pushing up through leaf litter in June and clumps may continue to appear until early autumn. The habitat of Indian pipe is in rich damp woods or in sandy woods in the coastal plain. The range is throughout much of the continental United States north into Canada and Alaska



and even in Asia. The genus name of *Monotropa* is derived from two Greek words, "monos" for "one" and "tropos" for "turn," referring to the single flower on each stem that turns down while blooming; the species name *uniflora* means a single flower.

Other common names are corpse plant and death plant, referring to the tendency of the delicate tissue to turn black once it is

handled. Ice plant refers to its color and convulsion or fit root refers to one of its medicinal uses.

The individual flower of each Indian pipe is up to an inch long with two or four small sepals that are shed soon after the flower opens, four to five petals that form an elongated bell, ten stamens, and a pistil with a disk-like stigma. The flowers are odorless, but pollination is still most probably by insects. The fruit that develops from each fertilized flower is a capsule up to one-half inch long with many seeds in it. After the release of pollen, the position of the flower becomes upright and that is the position in which the fruit develops.

Each plant has a number of slender, waxy flower-bearing stems that are four to ten inches tall with only small scale-like leaves. The roots are



just a mass of fibrous projections. No part of this plant contains chlorophyll and no photosynthesis occurs. Instead, this species, along with other relatives in our area, such as *M. hypopithys* or pine sap are saprophytes ("sapos" is Greek for "death.") Fungi are associated with roots of these plants in a symbiotic relationship in which fungus digests nutrients from dead plant material in the soil and the roots of the Indian pipe or pine sap obtain nutrients from these fungi. Other plants such as beechdrops (*Epifagus virginiana*) or cankerroot (*Conopholus Americana*) are true parasites living off the roots of other living plants.

There were many medicinal uses of this plant by Native American tribes as well as in folk or herbal medicine. Medicinal uses ranged from treating epilepsy, nervous conditions, female problems (especially those involving childbirth), gonorrhea, bladder ulcerations, stomach problems, cholera, nose bleeds, and hemorrhages. It

was also widely used externally as an eyewash as well as a replacement for opium to deal with pain. Extracts from all parts of the plant purportedly have antiseptic and astringent qualities. This summer keep your eyes open for the ghostly plant; both its unusual icy beauty and its lifestyle are well worth efforts to locate stands of Indian pipe.



Marion Lobstein
Associate Professor Biology
Northern Virginia Community College
Manassas Campus

(Reprinted from WildNews July-August 2002)
Pictures: *Monotropa hypopitys* (Ericaceae) from Prof. Dr. Otto Wilhelm Thomé Flora von Deutschland Österreich und der Schweiz; Thomas G. Barnes @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Barnes, T.G. & S.W. Francis. 2004. *Wildflowers and ferns of Kentucky*. University Press of Kentucky; USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 2: 674.

Editor's note: The sight of Indian Pipe eerily pushing up from the earth is wonderful indeed; this summer

I've been lucky to spot three distinct clumps in our yard, including one I've never seen before, the first two emerging in mid-June, the third (and new one) in July.
-Deanna High

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

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Original Artwork by Nicky Staunton,
Deadline for the September-October issue of *WildNews*
is **September 1, 2005**

Please send information to Deanna High, 9613 Heather
Green Drive, Manassas, VA 20112 or to deannah@agh.org.



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

exp. 10/05

Nancy Arrington
8388 Briarmont Lane
Manassas, VA 20112-2755

Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Monday, July 18, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas "Native Plants in Decoration"