

WILD NEWS



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

Number 2005-05

September-October 2005

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005

1:00 P.M.

AT THE HOME OF

MARY AND JERRY SHERMAN
6209 POSSUM TRAIL
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA
703-330-3930

- SCHEDULE: 1:00 P.M.** *Potluck picnic*
- 2:30 P.M. Chapter business meeting –
President's report
Election of nominating committee
Approval of 2006 budget.
- 3:00 P.M. Plant swap and wildflower walks

For the picnic, bring a salad, main dish, or dessert to share. PWWS will provide the beverages, plates, cups, and utensils.

For the plant swap, bring any plants you would like to share.

The setting: The Sherman home is located on an acre of largely forested land and slopes gently to a large open area along the Occoquan River. Over the three years that they have lived there, Mary and Jerry have added many plants and shrubs. They recently applied to the National Wildlife Federation for Habitat certification. The community has many walking trails for us to enjoy, weather permitting.

Directions: From Manassas take the Prince William Parkway south/east toward Woodbridge. Turn LEFT at Yates Ford Road and turn RIGHT at the light onto Davis Ford Road. Cross the bridge over the Occoquan River and take the first LEFT onto Occoquan Forest Drive. Follow it to the third court on the LEFT - Possum Trot. The Sherman home is at the end of the court at 6209 Possum Trot.

From Woodbridge take the Prince William Parkway going north/west toward Manassas. Turn RIGHT on Davis Ford Road. (Hoadley Road goes to the left at the same intersection). Go about 3 miles and turn RIGHT on Occoquan Forest Road. (Before the turn you will see a sign with a truck symbol indicating a steep grade. Slow down for the right turn ahead. River View Estates is on the left). Proceed to Possum Trot per above.

From I-66 take Route 234 South to the LEFT turn onto Prince William Parkway. Parkway turns RIGHT at the intersection with Liberia Avenue. Proceed with directions going south/east per above.

Election: Voting for the members of the nominating committee will take place at the Annual Meeting. An absentee ballot for each PWWS member has been sent for those who are unable to attend. *Absentee ballots* should be mailed by **September 23, 2005** to PWWS, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 20108. Ballots will be provided at the meeting for those attending.

NOMINEES FOR PWWS NOMINATING COMMITTEE (to serve a 2-year term beginning November 1, 2005)

Karen Waltman - Karen graduated from Northern Arizona University (a million years ago!) with a degree in Home Economics Education and Biology and then followed a career of Army spouse, mother, and teacher. Since 1987, she has been a naturalist at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Chantilly. Karen and her husband enjoy going to the Potomac Cannons baseball games and they follow the Orioles and Redskins. She also likes to sew, read, and talk long distance to her son and

daughter. Karen is a current member of the nominating committee.

Helen Walter - A long time member of PWWS, Helen has served as the chapter vice-president and president. She graciously hosted the annual meeting at her home in the late 90s and her garden was featured on the 2003 garden tour. Her officially certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat is enjoyed by all who visit. She is a dedicated gardener and grandmother and also serves on the landscape committee and Green Sanctuary committee at Bull Run Unitarian-Universalist Church.

Linda Stoltz - Linda and her husband, Leo, have been members of PWWS for about five years since moving here from Illinois. Becoming a Prince William Master Gardener sparked her interest in horticulture and now she is pursuing a degree in horticulture. Her efforts earned her membership in the academic fraternity, Phi Theta Kappa. Linda is also an active member of the Potomac Hosta Club. In addition to her gardening, she enjoys traveling and knitting. Linda currently is a member of the nominating committee.

Members will vote for 3 nominating committee members either by absentee ballot - please send by September 23-- or at the PWWS annual gathering on Sunday, October 1, at 1:00 p.m.

EVENTS TO NOTE

2005 Virginia Environmental Assembly

*Moving Virginia Forward on the Right Track:
New Leaders, New Partners, New Opportunities.*

September 24, 2005 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia

Attending: the Honorable Tim Kaine, the

Honorable H. Russell Potts, Jr. *Invited:* the

Honorable Jerry W. Kilgore and candidates for

Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. **For**

more information: email Carey Whitehead at

vcngeneral@aol.com or <http://www.vcnva.org/register>

to register online.

Stormwater Reduction Workshop for Homeowners

Saturday, October 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rock Creek National Park Nature Center. Free of charge, lunch provided, limited space. RSVP to Sherry Zandieh, 301.984.1908 x0 or szandieh@icprb.org. This workshop provides information about five things homeowners can do to protect local waterways. Learn more about how your actions affect local waterways and what you can do to help.

ParkFairfax Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 1, 2005 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. The sale will feature many top-quality nurseries from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia offering beautiful and uncommon native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade! Attending vendors will be: Doyle Farm Nursery, Elk Ridge NatureWorks, Hyla Brook Farm, Maryland Natives Nursery, Natural Landscapes Nursery, Nature By Design, Sassafras Farm, Mostly Edibles, and Toad Hall Gardens. *Directions:* ParkFairfax is located within the I-495 Beltway, directly across I-395 from Shirlington. From I-395, exit Shirlington/Quaker onto Quaker Lane. At the first light on Quaker, turn left onto Preston. Follow Preston to Valley Drive and continue past Gunston Road. The sale will be in the long parking lot on the right. You can view a flyer for the sale, containing the list of vendors and a map of the neighborhood, at www.parkfairfax.info/content/NativePlantSale_Oct1.pdf. Questions, please contact sale organizer Scott Knudsen at 703-671-8416 or sknudsen@earthlink.net. If you send email, please put "Native Plant Sale" in the subject line.

Community Meeting

The VDEQ-Northern Regional Office second annual Community Meeting will be held Monday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Woodbridge offices. This meeting is aimed at the public at large and will focus on local watershed impacts on the Chesapeake Bay and air quality in northern Virginia. For more information or to RSVP, contact Jeff Steers at 703-583-3810 or email jasteers@deq.virginia.gov or see: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/community/homepage.html>

MORE EVENTS: BUTTERFLIES, MAGNOLIA BOGS, AND FALL FOLIAGE Virginia's Rare Butterflies.

Thursday, September 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Adults. Join the Washington Area Butterfly Club and guest speaker Steve Roble from the VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation for an informative evening about the state's butterfly conservation efforts. Free, but reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line at

<https://registration.co.arlington.va.us> and reference program # 614455A. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204; 703-228-6535.

Barcroft Magnolia Bog Walk. Saturday, September 24, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Adults. We will identify the "signature" bog vegetation, observe the seeps that feed the wetland community, and discuss how geology and hydrology come together to form a bog. Wear long pants and sleeves. Be prepared to encounter poison ivy and sumac. Free, but reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line at

<http://registration.co.arlington.va.us> and reference program #614457A. Meet at the entrance to the parking garage at Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206. For more information call 703-228-6535.

Fall Foliage Hike. Saturday, October 15, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Adults. Join us on a trip to Shenandoah National Park for a moderately strenuous hike up to Mary's Rock. Bring lunch or purchase one at the Panorama Visitors Center. Water bottles, sunscreen, bug spray, and proper footwear all recommended. \$20 fee (per person.) Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line

<https://registration.co.arlington.va.us> and reference program #614460A.

Van trip departs from Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203. For more information call 703-228-6535.

Adults Gone Wild II. Saturday, October 22, 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Join an experienced field naturalist for an off trails hike through one of our wilder local parks. Participants should wear long pants, long sleeves, and footwear that can get wet. Bring whatever you are willing to carry - binoculars, water bottle, snack, field guides, etc. \$20 fee per person. Reservations required: call

703-228-4747 or register on-line
<https://registration.co.arlington.va.us> and
reference program #614465A. Van trip departs
from Long Branch Nature Center parking lot, 625
S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. For
more information call 703-228-6535.

Monarch Butterflies. Thursday, October 27,
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Adults. Join the Washington Area
Butterfly Club and guest speaker, Suzanne
Holland from the Fairfax County Park Authority,
for an informative evening about monarch
butterflies. Free, but reservations required: call
703-228-4747 or register on-line

<https://registration.co.arlington.va.us> and
reference program # 614404A. Meet at Long
Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd.,
Arlington, VA 22204; 703-228-6535.

PWWS CHAPTER NOTES

PWWS is considering buying **Karen
Rexrode's** plant label equipment that we
have used for several years. Karen is closing
Windy Hill Plant Farm this Fall.

The equipment includes an oversize printer
(approximately 2' x 3') that we need to find
space for. We'll also need a computer. If you
can help with either of these requests, please
call **Nancy Arrington**, 703-368-8431, or email
her at narrington@starpower.net.

Also, PWWS member **Ken Bass**, who now
works for the Bull Run Mountains
Conservancy, contacted me to see if we
would want to have a table at an event
commemorating the **Battle of Thoroughfare
Gap** on September 25. I am able to do it.
Please let me know if you are interested in
helping out, and I will give you the details.

-Nancy Arrington

Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting, July 18, 2005

The Prince William Wildflower Society met
on July 18, 2005 at Bethel Lutheran Church,
Manassas, Virginia for an informative
program on using native flowers and plants

in floral design. President **Charles Smith**
introduced presenter **Theresa DeFluri**, who
described herself as a floral designer,
military spouse, and mother of three.

Throughout her presentation, she shared her
knowledge of horticulture and floral design
as well as a wealth of helpful tidbits to
increase the enjoyment and success of using
flowers from our gardens in arrangements.

Theresa created three designs as she
discussed the basic principles and practices
of floral design. Some of the key points were:
always start with clean, fresh, tepid, water
and clean containers; use a florist knife to cut
stems, don't use scissors; use odd numbers
as a guiding principle; use nature as a guide
to the pleasing results of asymmetry and
variety; consider the viewing angle for the
arrangement; the flowers should be one and
one half the height of the container used;
sprits with water to freshen. Some of the
flowers that Theresa used in the
arrangements were: variegated mountain
mint, baptisia, gooseneck spirea, scabiosa,
Queen Ann's lace, sunflowers, golden rod,
celosia, mountain laurel, ferns.

Following the presentation, a few
announcements were made. PWWS Annual
Meeting is on October 2 at the home of **Mary
Sherman** in Occoquan Forest. Meeting
notices will be mailed to all members.
Nominating committee members will be
elected at the meeting. Volunteers for
nominees are needed.

Diane Flaherty announced that dodder was
found in the garden at the Nature
Conservancy headquarters in Arlington.
Charles announced that the chapter received
a letter of appreciation from the Nature
Conservancy regarding the plants donated to
the garden. Charles further announced that
PWWS members had answered the call to
help improve the native plant trail at the

Northern Virginia Community College-
Manassas Campus.

Additional announcements:

The Virginia Native Plant Society is looking for volunteers to serve on the state board. PWWS member, **Leo Stoltz**, was recently named VNPS Conservation Chair. The VNPS Annual Meeting is September 16-17 in conjunction with the Coastal Plain Native Plant Conference in Norfolk.

Nancy Vehrs gave an update on the Tri-County Parkway: at this point the Bull Run Park looks safe as citizens expressed strong opposition to the current plans.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. Members enjoyed refreshments provided by **Deanna High**. Three lucky door prize winners took home the three floral arrangements created by Theresa during her presentation. They were **Helen Rawls**, **Diane Flaherty**, and **Helen Walter**.

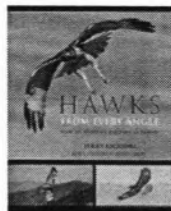
Attendance: Bonnie Nahas, Amy Hamilton, Ruth Johnston, Linda Stoltz, Mary Sherman, Sally Underwood, Mickey Sullivan, Dawn Lewis, Jeanne Fowler, Charlotte Cochard, Kathy Adams, Elaine Haug, Helen Walter, Diane Flaherty, William Hendrickson, June Najjum, Helen Rawls, Karen Waltman, Laura Farron, Deanna High, Nancy Vehrs, Charles Smith

-Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Cochard, Secretary

READING CORNER

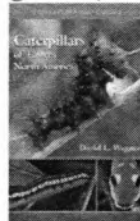
Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors in Flight by Jerry Liguori.

Featuring 339 striking color photos on 68 color plates and 32 black & white photos, *Hawks from Every Angle* is unique in presenting a host of meticulously crafted pictures for each of the 19 species it covers in detail--the species most common to migration sites throughout the United States and Canada.



All aspects of raptor identification are discussed, including plumage, shape, and flight style traits. Princeton University Press, 2005. ISBN 0-691-11825-6. 144p. Paper, \$19.95; also available in cloth edition.

Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History by David L. Wagner. A lavishly illustrated guide (more than 1,200 color photographs and two dozen line drawings) that will enable the identification of caterpillars of nearly 700 butterflies and moths found east of the Mississippi.



Giant silk moths, tiger moths, and many other species covered include forest pests, common garden guests, economically important species, and of course, the Mescal Worm and Mexican Jumping Bean caterpillars. Princeton University Press, 2005. Paper, \$29.95. ISBN: 0-691-12144-3. Also available in cloth edition.

VNPS home page: http://www.vnps.org	
President	Charles Smith, 703/361-5125 <i>chrlssmith@juno.com</i>
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	Bonnie Fulford Nahas, 703/361-7409
Flora Liaison	Regina Yurkonis
History	OPEN
Membership	Nancy Vehrs, 703/368-8431
Programs	Charles Smith, 703/361-5125
Plant Sale	Nancy Arrington, 703/368-8431
Publicity	Leo Stoltz, 703/791-6175
Refreshments	Joann Krumviede, 703/938-4378
Registry	Claudia Thompson-Deahl, 703/754-9235
Editor	Deanna LaValle High, 703/392-3505
Advisor/VNPS	
2nd VP	Nicky Staunton, 703/368-9803
Original Artwork by Nicky Staunton, Deadline for the November-December issue of <i>WildNews</i> is November 1, 2005	
Please send information to Deanna High, 9613 Heather Green Drive, Manassas, VA 20112 or to deannah@agb.org .	

FROM THE EDITOR

Our August-drought-in -September has been hard on even the sturdiest natives, as water-stressed dogwoods, hickories, and lofty tulip poplars dustily droop and early wither yellow-brown as weeks of fine, blue, and sunny days unspool around us without a drop of moisture. I suppose such weather could be considered both a blessing and a curse, depending on who you ask, but given its basically peaceful nature it seems churlish to complain too much in light of what weather recently has wrought in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Just a few months ago, I signed onto the Listserv for the Louisiana Native Plant Society, mostly just to keep in touch with what was going on in my native state and to perhaps pick up interesting tidbits of native plant lore. The LNPS Listserv revealed a small but active group (similar to VNPS and PWWS) that engages in walks, talks, and public outreach on regional native plants, gardens, animals, and conservation issues and enjoys getting together, trading stories, swapping plants, pictures, and concerns.

Since Katrina, there has been a slow trickle of news – at first, naturally, mostly concern about the welfare of fellow LNPS members living in the southern part of the state--filtering through the mess and devastation of the storm and its aftermath of flooding. As the weeks pass and people are just beginning to be able to reconnect to the rest of the world, more LNPS folks are checking in with news. Here are a few of those messages... September 13 from a native plant nursery owner: "15 days, 5 hours without any electricity. Irrigation in

the nursery started back up 10 am on 8/30. Camping at home has been fine. Pond swimming rediscovered. Electricity has just been reestablished this morning. Not a scratch on any buildings. 30 trees down in my woods and nursery. Cutting and burning clean-up continues."

Two others LNPS members: "My house is okay. Old Metairie flooded and a lot of trees are down. My three 50ft cypress trees are okay, but cedar and sweet gum have NO branches." "I live in Lakeview, and am still flooded out- access to Orleans parish is denied- will welcome cuttings and advice when the waters subside- anyone tried to replant in areas saturated for weeks by toxic flood waters?" Please email..."

A sense of humor is preserved, though, as biologist and LNPS board member Charles Allen observed – "While watching the TV last week with one of the New Orleanians, a TV commentator called it Ground Zero but this person said that a better description of New Orleans was 'Zero Ground.'"

The inconvenience and effect of a few weeks' drought pales considerably compared to what our like-minded neighbors in the deep south are facing.

For more about wetlands in Louisiana and in general, the Lady Bird Johnson Center's latest electronic newsletter, "WildflowerWire," contains links to resources on the importance of wetlands at <http://www.wildflower.org/?tagent=wfc-2619&nd=2118>. The Louisiana Native Plant Society website is www.lnps.org.

-Deanna LaValle High

NATIVE PLANT PROFILE

New York Ironweed

During late summer and early fall, one of the loveliest wildflowers in our area is the magnificent ironweed. The striking purple flower heads of this graceful member of the



composite family add color and interest to damp roadsides, pond and marsh banks, or damp fields. New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) is the most common species of this genus in our area. The genus name is in honor of William Vernon, an English botanist of the late 1600s and early 1700s who traveled widely in North America. The species name refers to New York where the plant may have first been collected. The range of this species is from Ohio and New York State south to Georgia. In the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora* this species is found in virtually every county of the state.

Ironweed is a member of the *Asteraceae* or composite family with only disk or tubular flowers. (Many of the

composites, such as the daisy, have both ray and disk flowers with the "petals" being the ray flowers and the disk flowers making up the center.) The purple tubular disk flowers are found in groups of 20-40 or more a head. Each individual flower has a 5-lobed tubular corolla, 5 stamens, a pistil with an inferior ovary and a slender and thread-like style, and like other composites, the calyx (sepals) is the pappus, which in this species is a purple double structure with outer short, narrow scales and inner long bristles. The fruits are achenes, which are elongate, cylindrical, ribbed, and hairy. Like other composites, individual heads of flowers are subtended by leafy bracts that are called an involucre. The involucre of ironweed is bell shaped or oblong with individual purplish-green bracts each with a long bristle-like tip that are arranged in a woven pattern. The individual heads are on short stems (Peduncles) and are arranged in a flat-topped inflorescence pattern described as a corymbose cyme.



New York
Ironweed

The rather coarse 3-6 foot tall stems of New York ironweed may range from rough hairiness to smooth. The alternate leaves are 3-10 inch long lanceolate with serrated edges and vary in their surface texture as do the stems. This perennial species has a well-developed root system.

Medicinal uses of ironweed by American Indians included making teas from leaves to treat female problems including relief from after childbirth pain. Root teas were used to treat loose teeth, stomach ulcers, and hemorrhaging.

Worldwide, there are more than 500 species of this genus with some tropical species being shrubby. In the Northern Virginia area, there are two less common species other than the more common New York ironweed. *V. glauca* (meaning blue-green) is called broad-leaved ironweed and has leaves that are broader than New York. The pappus is yellowish and the

inflorescence is more loosely branched than in New York. The habitat is more upland woods in the piedmont zones from Pennsylvania to Georgia. *V. altissima* (*gigantea* in *Atlas*) is tall ironweed and may be taller than the other two species of our area. Its inflorescence is looser than New York but the pappus is purplish. The habitat of this species is moist areas of more mountainous areas from New York state to Georgia and is only in Loudoun and Fauquier counties in Northern Virginia according to the *Atlas*.

This fall enjoy the beauty of this handsome and colorful genus in our area. Ironweed is often associated with other colorful falls composites such as Joe-Pye weed, goldenrods, or various bright yellow sunflower species. The complementary and contrasting colors of these composites help bring color and beauty at the end of summer into early fall.

--Marion Blois Lobstein

reprinted and adapted from Wild News,
September-October 1999, no. 99-05



Louisiana squarehead (*Tetragonotheca ludoviciana*)
with grasshopper. This is listed as an S-3 rare
plant for the state.
Photo: Charles Allen, Louisiana Native Plant Society

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: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, at the home of Mary and Jerry Sherman in Manassas
