

WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society



Number 2006-01

January-February 2006

JANUARY 16 MEETING

Annual PWWS member slideshow. It's show and tell (or identify) time for PWWS members! We will convene at 7:30 at Bethel Lutheran Church (at the corner of Sudley Road/Rt. 234 and Plantation Lane in Manassas) for an enjoyable evening of pictures, plants, and people as members display slides of natural beauty from diverse climates and environments. A digital projector and laptop will be available for presentations (as well as a real slide projector if anyone chooses to present via that medium.) Program roundup to date includes: *Martha Slover*, with scenes of Florida; *Nicky Staunton*, with slides from various wildflower forays in Virginia; *Kathy and Don Ehrenberger* will share photographs from their cross country trip; *Deanna and Jack High* will show a few slides each from trips to the Anza-Borrego National Park (California), Logan Canyon in Utah, and the Louisiana delta; and *Charles Smith* will share slides of the Great Smokey Mountains. Others may also contribute to the program. The meeting is open to the general public. For more information, contact President Charles Smith at 703-361-5125.

Prince William Wildflower Society Annual Report to the Virginia Native Plant Society, November 2005

Submitted by President Charles Smith

MEETINGS

Membership:

November 15, 2004 – Speaker: Martha Slover,
Geology of Virginia

January 17, 2005 – Membership slide show
March 21, 2005 – John Strecker and Tom Berry –
Honey Bees
May 16, 2005 – Martin Ogle, Wildlife of the Bull
Run-Occoquan Corridor
July 18, 2005 – Theresa DeFluri, The Use of
Native Plants in Decoration (flower arranging
demonstration and discussion)
November 21, 2005 – Ruth Douglas, Invasive
Alien Plants

Board:

February 21, April 18, June 20

Annual:

Sunday, October 2, 2005 PWWS membership met at the home of member Mary Sherman for a luncheon and annual meeting. The main order of business was the election of three members of the nominating committee. The slate of candidates--Linda Stoltz, Karen Waltman, and Helen Walters--had been mailed to the membership more than 30 days in advance of the meeting in accordance with the VNPS by-laws. The slate was unanimously approved.

EVENTS

Participated in annual Spring Fling at the Prince William County fair grounds April 23, 2005
Held annual Spring Garden Tours at three member gardens April 24, 2005 open to the public with good attendance
Had annual chapter plant sale (see below) May 7, 2005

PROGRAMS DELIVERED

Several members led groups at the annual Bull Run Bluebell walk on April 17, 2005

Presentation of Backyard Habitat program to Great Falls Garden Club April 2005
Had table at Thoroughfare Gap remembrance event on September 25, 2005
Presentation to Walney Garden Guild on native and naturalized plants on October 13, 2005.

SCHOLARSHIPS

PWWS chapter sponsored two people from the Student Conservation Association to attend the VNPS annual meeting in Norfolk in September

CONSERVATION and PRESERVATION

Fundraising:

The annual chapter plant sale was held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Manassas on Saturday, May 7, 2005. Total receipts including plants, memberships, and mug sales were \$4370.30. The breakdown was as follows: Plants: \$3845.30; 15 new/renewed memberships: \$505; Mugs: 2 @ \$10 = \$20. There were approximately 118 customers.

Prince William Wildflower Society Annual Meeting, October 2, 2005

Attendees: Amy Hamilton, Linda & Leo Stoltz, Mary and Jerry Sherman, Sally Underwood, Jeanne Fowler (& husband), Helen & Rob Walter, Diane & Rick Flaherty, William Hendrickson, Deanna & Jack High, Nancy Arrington, Joann Krumviede, Nicky Staunton, Marion and George Lobstein, Martha Slover, Helen Rawls, Tiana Camfiord, Charles Smith, Kathy Adams – 25 present

Charles Smith brought the meeting to order at around 1:30 pm. The first order of business was to vote on the slate of candidates (Linda Stoltz, Karen Waltman and Helen Walter) for the nominating committee. Martha Slover made a motion to accept the slate of candidates as is; Nancy Arrington seconded the motion. All present (25) and all proxy votes received (13) were unanimous in approving the slate of candidates.

Mary Sherman asked about the status of the Tri-County Parkway. Nicky Staunton gave an update as to the current status – wounded but not dead. Discussion followed.

Martha Slover provided an update on Merrimac Farm. The Marine Corps has pledged half of the Money. The Prince William Conservation Alliance is working hard to raise the additional funds – primarily through federal sources. Discussion followed.

Amy Hamilton announced that her yard has been approved as an official backyard habitat. Discussion followed on the about the newly published Audubon At Home booklet by Audubon of Northern Virginia. Several members including Nicky and Sally Underwood are featured in the booklet.

Nicky announced that the Friends of the Woodbridge Refuge are hosting an open house on October 15 and encouraged people to attend.

Marion Lobstein said that the planting at the NVCC Manassas Campus native plant trail went well. Nancy Arrington, Nancy Vehrs and others got most of the plants in the ground before the drought got them. Marion also announced that the Flora of Virginia project is moving along well with continued fundraising and about 10 percent of the descriptions completed. More DVD and video copies of *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* are now available – all profits will go toward the **Flora project**.

Nicky announced that Chris Ludwig now has an assistant which will greatly help with the Flora project.

Charles adjourned the meeting at about 2:25 pm.

LOOKING AHEAD The next regular membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. The program has not been announced at this point. Contact president and program chair *Charles Smith* at 703/361-5125 for more information.

SPRING EPHEMERALS IN VIRGINIA

Editor's note: This article about founding PWWS member and Botany Chair Marion Lobstein appeared in The Virginian-Pilot, January 1, 2006.

Learn about magic of spring ephemerals at garden show

BY REBECCA BURCHER JONES THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT •

SPRING EPHEMERALS, which include native wildflowers with common names such as Virginia bluebell, trout lily, trillium, Dutchman's breeches, and spring beauty, always keep their above-ground performances brief, as the collective moniker suggests.

But don't let that fool you into believing that these often delicate plants, whose blooms are among the earliest signs that another spring is about to dawn, live out passive lives the rest of the year.

What you never see, what you find beneath ground – the corms, tubers, bulbs and rhizomes that form the rootstock for spring ephemerals – play an important role as energy storehouses



Botanist Marion Lobstein shows an early blooming, large-flowered trillium she came across in the woods of southwestern Virginia.

when the plant isn't visible. What you rarely see – the tiny seeds that result from

pollinated blooms – are dispersed after the plant's show of activity. Before and after each year's short recital, there's plenty happening with spring ephemerals.

Botanist Marion Lobstein, an associate professor of biology at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, will talk about the fascinating life cycles of these plants when she

presents "The Magic of Our Native Spring Ephemerals" at this year's Virginia Flower and Garden Show, slated for Jan. 20, 21 and 22 in Virginia Beach.

"I'm going to try to help you imagine being a Virginia bluebell, where you have this brief window of life above ground in the spring and spend the rest of your life underground," says Lobstein, who's taught at the college for 32 years. "I'll talk about what prompts you to bloom and then die back when the tree canopy comes out."

One aspect of the life cycle of some spring ephemerals that Lobstein finds particularly interesting is their seed collection and dispersal by ants. This phenomenon is known as myrmecochory, and it's a subject Lobstein has studied and written about through the years. She says ants are the means by which approximately 30 percent of spring-blooming, woodland wildflowers have their seeds distributed.

"The seeds of ant-dispersed species have an elaiosome, a fleshy, fat-filled body, or structure, on the seed surface," Lobstein explains. "This gives off a chemical signal to ants, which then carry the seeds back toward their nest, where they either chew off the elaiosome themselves or take it inside to provide food for the emerging larvae."

This practical science works for plants, says Lobstein, "as a good way to send the kids away from home."

When Lobstein speaks, she'll also address medicinal and edible qualities of some spring ephemerals. One example she'll discuss is mayapple, which produces a fleshy fruit with only one edible part – the juicy pulp of a ripened fruit can be made into a jelly. Every other part of the plant – even the seeds of the fruit – is poisonous. Yet, Lobstein says there are five, beneficial cancer drugs that are derived from mayapple's underground rhizome.

Lobstein will have available for sale when she speaks a 45-minute program titled "Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region." It

comes in both video and DVD formats and sells for \$20. She, along with two partners, created the program. All proceeds from its sales are donated to the "Flora of Virginia" Project, whose mission it is to prepare and publish a comprehensive manual and Web site of Virginia's more than 3,700 native and naturalized plants.

SPECIAL: PWWS Members will want to watch for the **May issue of *Southern Living* magazine**, as it will feature a lengthy interview with Marion, in which she highlights the **Flora of Virginia Project**, the **VNPS**, and her **32 years of teaching**.

FERN & FERN-ALLIES CHECKLIST

In late fall and winter the weather is still often mild enough for a brisk winter walk through the woods. We tend to think of this time of year a dreary and uncolorful season, but if you look closely in the woods you may still see green foliage or other patterns of color. Lichens, mosses, and some fungi such as bracket fungi persist through the winter and may be very interesting to observe, especially with a little magnification. The seedpods or berries of many flowering plants also still persist through the winter and are worth the effort to try to identify. Some flowering plants retain leaves through the winter such as hepatica, spotted wintergreen, crane fly orchid, rattlesnake weed, and some of



the mustard family members to name only a few. Of course, skunk cabbage hoods are up in January and open by February. Hepatica may

even to start to bloom by late February. However, another group of evergreen winter plants of winter interest often overlooked are the fern and fern allies such as clubmosses and horsetails. The following is a checklist of the ferns and fern allies documented to occur in the Northern Virginia area (Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun, Arlington, Stafford, and Fauquier Counties) in the 3rd edition of the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora*. The species with an asterisk are evergreen species or semi-evergreen and many be enjoyed during the winter months.

Photo: Christmas Fern, Potomac Overlook, January 2006. George Lobstein.

EQUISETACEAE (HORSETAIL FAMILY)

- ___ *Equisteum arvense** - Horsetail, field
- ___ *E. hyemale** - Scouring rush

ISOETACEAE (QUILLWORT FAMILY)

- ___ *Isoetes engelmannii* - Quillwort, Engelmann's
- ___ *I. riparia* - Quillwort, shore

LYCOPODIACEAE (CLUBMOSS FAMILY)

- ___ *Lycopodium alopecuroides** - Clubmoss
- ___ *L. appressum** - Clubmoss, Southern
- ___ *L. clavatum** - Clubmoss, running
- ___ *L. digitatum* (*L. flabelliforme*) Ground cedar
- ___ *L. inundatum** - Clubmoss, bog
- ___ *L. lucidulum** - Clubmoss, shining
- ___ *L. obscurum* var. *isophyllum** - Ground pine
- ___ *L. tristachyum** - Slender groundpine

SELAGINELLACEAE (SPIKEMOSS FAMILY)

- ___ *Selaginella apoda* Spikemoss, meadow
- ___ *S. repestis* - Spikemoss, rock

SCHIZAEACEAE (CURLYGRASS FAMILY)

- ___ *Lygodium palmatum* - Climbing fern

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE (ADDER'S TONGUE FAMILY)

- ___ *Botrychium biternatum* - Grape fern, Southern

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE (ADDER'S TONGUE FAMILY) cont.

- ___ *B. dissectum* - Grape fern, dissected
- ___ *B. matricariaefolium* - Grape fern, daisy-leaved
- ___ *B. oneidense* - Grape fern, blunt-lobed
- ___ *B. virginianum* - Grape fern, Virginia
- ___ *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (var. pycnostichum) - Adder's tongue, southern

OSMUNDACEAE (ROYAL FERN FAMILY)

- ___ *Osmunda cinnamomea* - Cinnamon fern
- ___ *O. claytoniana* - Interrupted fern
- ___ *O. regalis* - Royal fern

POLYPODIACEAE (TRUE FERN FAMILY)

- ___ *Adiantum pedatum* - Maidenhair fern
- ___ *Asplenium x ebenoides* - Spleenwort, walking
- ___ *A. montanum** - Spleenwort, mountain
- ___ *A. pinnatifidum** - Spleenwort, lobed
- ___ *A. platyneuron** - Spleenwort, ebony
- ___ *A. trichomanes** - Spleenwort, maidenhair
- ___ *Athyrium asplenoides* - Lady fern, Southern
- ___ *A. pycnocarpon* - Glade fern
- ___ *A. thelypteroides* - Glade fern, silvery
- ___ *Camptosorus rhizophyllus** - Walking fern
- ___ *Cheilanthes lanosa** - Lipfern, hairy
- ___ *Cystopteris bulbifera** - Bulblet fern
- ___ *C. protrusa** - Lowland brittle fern
- ___ *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* - Hay-scented fern
- ___ *Dryopteris celsa** - Log fern
- ___ *D. cristata* - Wood fern, crested
- ___ *D. goldiana* - Wood fern, Goldie's
- ___ *D. intermedia** - Wood fern, intermediate
- ___ *D. marginalis** - Wood fern, marginal
- ___ *D. spinulosa* (*D. carthusiana*)* - Wood fern, spinulose
- ___ *Lorinseria areolata* - Net-vein chain fern

- ___ *Matteuccia pensylvanica* - Ostrich fern
- ___ *Onoclea sensibilis* - Sensitive fern
- ___ *Pellaea atropurpurea** - Cliff brake, purple
- ___ *Phegopteris hexagonoptera* - Beech fern
- ___ *Polypodium polypodioides* - Resurrection fern
- ___ *P. virginianum* - Rock polypody
- ___ *Polystichium acrostichoides* - Christmas fern
- ___ *Pteridium aquilinum* - Bracken
- ___ *Thelypteris noveboracensis* - New York fern
- ___ *T. thelypteroides* (*T. thelypteroides*) - Marsh fern
- ___ *Woodsia obtusa* - Woodsia, blunt-lobed

-Courtesy of Marion Lobstein

UPCOMING EVENTS

Botanical Art with Lara Call Gastinger. Friday, March 24 - Sunday, March 26. Flower Camp, Howardsville, Virginia.

Enjoy the beauty of early spring in Piedmont Virginia while studying botanical art with Lara Call Gastinger, illustrator of the Flora of Virginia. Lara will be teaching sepia watercolor painting as students learn to depict seed pods, resting buds, and emerging leaves. Lara, a trained botanist and an accomplished artist, will lead students through a series of exercises designed to teach both new artistic techniques and improved observation. Tuition of \$325 includes five meals, two nights' lodging, and instruction. Enrollment limited to 15.

Participants with some drawing and/or painting experience benefit most from this workshop. (10 percent of tuition will be donated to the Flora of Virginia Project). For more information or to register, visit www.flowercamp.org or contact Nancy Ross Hugo, Director, Flower Camp, 804.798.6364; nancy@flowercamp.org.

Winter Tree Identification. Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m.--3 p.m. Cris Fleming lectures on how to

identify trees in winter on the grounds of the National Audubon Society's Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. The lecture begins inside with a look at techniques and then moves outdoors to study woody plants on the grounds. Members \$28; nonmembers \$39. Call 301-652-9188 ext 16 for more information.

Seed Exchange with the U.S. National Arboretum on Saturday, January 28 from 12:30-4:00 pm. Co-hosted by *Washington Gardener* magazine. Unlike most other seed swaps, this one will be in-person and face-to-face. You bring your extra seeds and swap with other gardeners. Even if you don't have any seeds to trade you are welcome to attend! Everyone will leave with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. Seed swap categories will include: natives, edibles, exotics, annuals, perennials, and trees/shrubs. Expert speakers will give brief talks on seed collection and propagation tips. Registration fee of \$15 per person in advance. See <http://www.usna.usda.gov/> to print out the registration form or send payment to U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002, Attn: Event Registration, EVSU. Specify "Seed Exchange" and include your full address, phone number, and email. Please make checks out to "USNA." More details will be posted at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/> and at www.washingtongardener.com.

Green Spring Gardens Winter Lecture Series.

February. For a full listing of events or to register, contact Green Spring at 703/642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org

Front Lawn Alternatives. Sunday, February 5, 1:30-3:00 pm

Nancy Beaubaire, Director of Communications, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, will present ideas on going beyond the "big-green" to create visually appealing and biologically diverse front landscapes using native plants. \$11
Building a Garden: Focal Points, Structures and Arbors. Sunday, February 12, 1:30-3:00 pm
Explore the importance of three key elements in establishing a beautiful garden space. Don Haynie, owner of Buffalo Spring Herb Farm,

will show us how to "build" a garden; from conception to construction and finally completion in four simple steps. \$11

Native Friends. Sunday, February 19, 1:30-3:00 pm
Ellie Altman, Executive Director, Adkins Arboretum, and Jim White, Landscape Manager, Delaware Nature Society, will introduce their gardens and show us how and why they are promoting the use of native plants and the impact these plants have on the biodiversity of wildlife. \$11

Composting & Vermiculture. Friday, February 10, 1:30-3pm

Homemade compost is black gold. Learn how to compost yard debris and kitchen scraps into a soil amendment that will transform your garden into a healthy habitat. Vegetable scraps become rich, nutritious compost in a 'magical' process accelerated by these squirmy helpers. \$11

Basic Pruning. Friday, February 17, 1:30-3pm

Overgrown, gangly shrubs are unsightly and sometimes hazardous – they can block views and provide hiding places for unwanted visitors. Flowering shrubs need to be pruned regularly to produce abundant blooms. Learn how, when and where to prune to create healthy, shapely shrubs. A portion of this class will be spent outdoors; please dress appropriately.

PLANTING THE WILD: LINKS BETWEEN CULTIVATION AND CONSERVATION.

Saturday, **March 11, 2006**, 10 am to 3pm (registration and coffee at 9am) University of Richmond.

Stanwyn Shetler, Botanist Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, will open with "What is the Wild;" Rick Myers, Natural Areas Stewardship Program Manager at the DCR Division of Natural Heritage, will speak on "Virginia's Natural Area Preserves and Their Management;" and Bill Brumback, Conservation Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, will present "Evolution of a Conservationist: A Propagator's Journey."

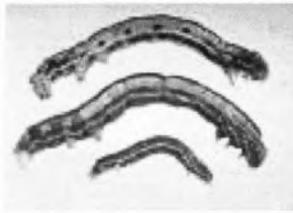
Prince William County Fall Cankerworm Program

By Karrie Cox

Program Specialist
Gypsy Moth and Mosquito Control Branch
Environmental Services Division, Prince William County Department of Public Works

The fall cankerworm is a forest pest that attacks deciduous trees and shrubs. These pests damage trees by causing defoliation that can lead to tree mortality. Fall cankerworms feed on a variety of trees including ash, beech, elm, hickory, linden, maples, and oaks.

The fall cankerworm larvae measure from 3/4 to 1 inch long and vary in color from green with



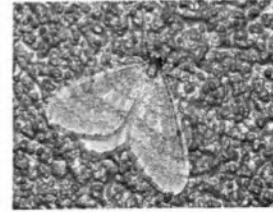
yellow stripes to green with dark stripes or black with white stripes. They are smooth and have no hairs. As members of the inchworm

family, they can also be identified by their characteristic movement. Adult moths emerge in late fall. The very small, dull grey, wingless females climb up tree trunks and await the winged males in order to mate. Once the tiny barrel-shaped eggs are laid, they overwinter and then hatch in late April to early May. The young larvae feed voraciously on tender new spring leaves and by late June to early July, descend to the ground on threads of silk. Once on the ground, they burrow down one to four inches, spin a silken cocoon and pupate. The pupae remain in the soil until late fall and the cycle begins again.

Our field personnel conduct surveys for the fall cankerworm each year from approximately December 1 through mid-January to determine population densities. Surveying for the fall cankerworm involves the use of sticky band traps that are placed around the trunks of trees. These traps ensnare adult females so that they can be counted. In 2004, there were 15 band sites

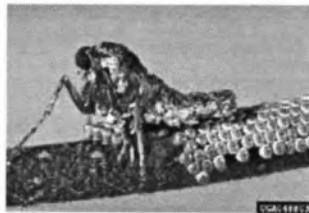
and 1022 females found and in 2005, there were 27 band sites with 793 females found in the Cherry Hill area of the county.

For the first time, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution in April



2004 to utilize funds from the gypsy moth and mosquito control program to suppress fall cankerworm. On May 6, 2004, approximately 600 acres were treated in the Cherry Hill area. On May 2, 2005, aerial suppression was conducted again on populations in the Cherry Hill area. The treatment area consisted of approximately 1,200 acres. Our branch used the EPA-approved insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* aerially both years. Spraying is timed with leaf development and fall cankerworm egg hatch and development.

This year fall cankerworm surveys began on December 1, 2005 and will continue through mid-January 2006. The need for suppression will be determined once surveys are complete and if it is necessary, will take place sometime between the end of April to early May 2006.



If you suspect that you have fall cankerworms or if you are not sure, please feel free to contact our branch

for assistance. Prince William County Government, Department of Public Works, Environmental Services Division, Gypsy Moth and Mosquito Control Branch, 4092 Merchant Plaza Suite A, Woodbridge, Virginia 22192. Tel. 703/793-6279; Hotline: 703/792-4636 x233. Website: www.pwccgov.org

--Karrie Cox

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Deadline for the March-April issue of <i>Wild News</i> is	March 1, 2006
Please send or email information to Deanna High, 9613 Heather Green Drive, Manassas, VA 20112; <i>deannah@agb.org</i> .	
VNPS home page: http://www.vnps.org	



Manassas 7th grade students Lily High and Alison Jaye helped with winter cleanup Saturday, January 7, at the Dr. Jack Finzel Memorial Wildflower Garden at NOVA Manassas. Supervised by Marion Lobstein, the girls worked to fulfill their community service project for Parkside Middle School.

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



exp. 10/06

Nancy Arrington
 8388 Briarmont Lane
 Manassas, VA 20112-2755

Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Monday, January 16, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas "PWWS Member Slideshow"