



# WILD NEWS

## Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2006-02 March-April 2006

### MARCH 20 MEMBERSHIP

#### MEETING: Spring Ephemerals with Marion Lobstein

Please come and join us to hear a new slide presentation on spring ephemeral wildflowers by Marion Lobstein, botanist, associate professor at Northern Virginia Community College and member of the board of directors for the Virginia Flora Project. This will be the first public viewing of her new program that will be shown throughout the state to benefit the **Virginia Flora Project**. (For more on the project, see

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/vaflora.htm>)

#### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE FOR MARCH 20

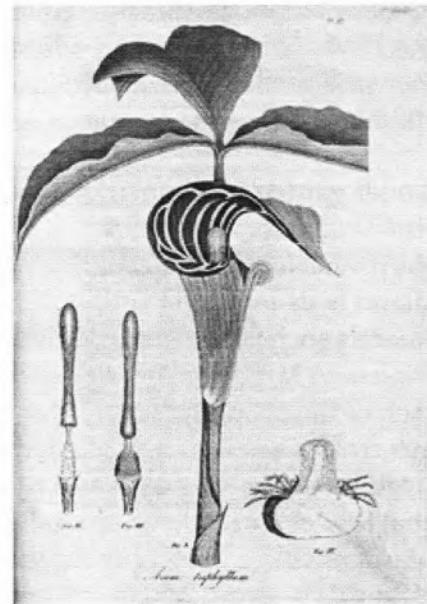
**MEETING.** We will meet at 7:30 pm at **Prince William Hospital Conference Room A on the 3rd floor.** *Directions:* Turn into the main entrance at the traffic light on Sudley Road, go in through the main lobby and past reception to the right to the elevators, and go to the 3rd floor. The conference rooms are on the left as you come out of the elevators.

### PWWS 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR: APRIL 30

**T**hree different approaches to woodland native gardens will be open for viewing April 30<sup>th</sup>, for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual PWWS spring garden tour. PWWS members Nancy Arrington, Manassas; Fran and Ken Bass, Nokesville;

and Phil and Francis Louer, of Haymarket, generously have agreed to share their beautiful gardens with fellow enthusiasts and the public at large. This year's tour will run from 12 to 5, with the exception of the Louer garden, which runs from 2 to 6.

All have been on tour several times in our 21-year history of the spring garden tours.



Arum triphyllum (Dragon root) In *American Medical Botany*. Jacob Bigelow, artist, 1787-1879. Published 1817-20. NYPL PL.IV. Digital ID: 1107162

The Arrington garden comprises several acres of naturally sloping terrain with walkways and lawns connecting planted areas. Mostly shaded, the garden abounds with an amazing diversity of natives and nonnatives artfully encircling the house, the whole of which creates a truly unified woodland setting. Native wildflowers such as woodland phlox, golden

alexanders, and goldenseal grow alongside ferns and other shade-lovers, while native azalea species are artlessly interwoven with hostas, epimediums, and other non-natives. A small pond off the deck serves as a liquid focal point for the house and front gardens; nearby stands a mature and fine example of the native yellowwood tree (*cladrastis kentukea*).

The five acre Nokesville garden of Fran and Ken Bass presents a creative and subtle mix of lawn, mature trees, natural animal habitats, ornamentals, ferns, and natives, as well as a large pond that serves as a magnet for wildlife and aquatic plants. Under a canopy of mature oaks and hickories, pathways lead to beds containing native wildflowers and roses, herbs, and perennials, punctuated by various kinds of seating where visitors can view the garden from a specific viewpoint.

The Louer garden in Haymarket features a veritable color-riot of thousands of azaleas connected via grass pathways to woodland beds featuring spring ephemerals such as bloodroot, trillium, and violets. A large marshy area occupies the back of the property, where wooden bridges cross a small stream planted with moisture-loving species such as ferns, cardinal flower and jacks-in-the-pulpit. This garden will be open only for the later part of the day—from 2:00 to an extended 6:00, so folks should plan to tour it last.



Mark Catesby, *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahamas*. London 1731-43.

## ANNUAL PWWS PLANT SALE

### MAY 13

**Plant Sale-** The annual PWWS plant sale is scheduled for **May 13 from 9 a.m.—noon on the grounds of Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Lane, Manassas.**

Joanne Krumviede reports an arrangement with Kathy Adams to print labels and we will purchase a printer from Karen Rexrode. Flyers advertising the sale will be distributed at the Prince William County (PWC) Lawn and Garden Show (Spring Fling) on April 29. Notepads and mugs also will be available for sale at the PWWS plant sale.

**Donations of plants are needed** for the sale—especially trees and shrubs. Plant Sale Chair **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. 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.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING FLING LAWN AND GARDEN SHOW AND SALE: Saturday, April 29**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm, rain or shine, Prince William Fairgrounds Free parking; free admission. PWWS Secretary Charlotte Cochard is leading PWWS efforts on the plans for the "Beyond the Backyard" barn where PWWS will exhibit. Jan Ferrigan from Arlington Virginia Cooperative Extension will be at the show with the Invasives exhibit. Charlotte is encouraging PWWS to collaborate with Jan to offer native plant alternatives to invasives. We hope to get a native plant vendor. Wildflower of the Year brochures and the Woodland and Butterfly gardening brochures will be on hand at the show. Email Charlotte at [cjcochard@comcast.net](mailto:cjcochard@comcast.net) or call 703-792-7747 for more information.

### **PWWS PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

I hope everyone is well coming into spring. We are looking forward to Marion's presentation on spring wildflowers on March 20 at Prince William Hospital. Please also mark your calendars for the May membership meeting on Monday the 15th. We will be back at Bethel Lutheran Church and our speaker will be Karen Rexrode, former owner of Windy Hill Nursery, coming to impart her knowledge about gardening with native plants.

We need several talented members to take over jobs for the chapter. In particular, we need someone to handle publicity and to coordinate programs - this could be the same person and doesn't necessarily require a lot of your time. More substantial are positions such as education and registry. These positions could take more or less of your time depending upon how you structure them. Please let me know if you are interested.

Have a great spring.

Charles

p.s. Vulcan Materials has recently applied for a special use permit to open a 536-acre quarry in the heart of Nokesville. Many of you may have received a mailing within the last few months from Vulcan Materials in the form of a very attractive brochure describing this project and soliciting your support. Although I don't feel our organization should comment on every significant project proposed in the county nor oppose all large development projects, this one lies at the county's western limit near the Fauquier County line within the Rural Crescent in an area with narrow overburdened roads, well and septic for its residents and businesses and appears to have the overwhelming opposition of the local residents. The project has apparently been on the table



Iris  
versicolor  
(blue flag)  
From Bigelow,  
Jacob, 1787-  
1879, artist, in  
*American  
Medical Botany*,  
published  
1817 20. NYPL  
Digital Library  
PL.XVI. Digital  
ID: 1107174

before (More information is available on the Nokesville Civic Association website at [www.No28Quarry.com](http://www.No28Quarry.com).) I am going to invite a representative from the

Nokesville Civic Association to come to our March or May membership meeting and make a short presentation and answer questions.

### SAVE THE DATES PWWS SPRING EVENTS

**APRIL 30: PWWS GARDEN TOUR**  
(12 noon-5:00 pm Manassas,  
Nokesville, and Haymarket)

**MAY 12: PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY (PWC) LAWN AND GARDEN SHOW (SPRING FLING)**  
(9:00am-3:00 pm rain or shine; Prince William County Fairgrounds)

**MAY 13: PWWS PLANT SALE**  
(Bethel Lutheran Church grounds,  
9:00 am.-noon)

### A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR VNPS MEMBERS

The Piedmont Chapter of VNPS was contacted by Bruce Jones, member and owner of 88 acres of land in Rappahannock County about conducting a plant survey in exchange for a donation to the Flora of Virginia Project.

After some discussion, it was decided that this would be an opportunity to learn the basics of plant survey and practice identification, while helping a landowner and also contributing to the Flora. Marion Lobstein, Associate Professor of Biology, NVCC-Manassas, has agreed to do a teaching session for participants at 10:30 in the morning of the first survey date, April 1, 2006. Lunch will be provided, and then we will form teams and begin work on the survey in the afternoon.

There will be additional survey dates set in early May, mid June and August in the hope that we will be able to identify additional plants more easily as they

come into bloom. More instruction will be provided at each session as needed. While we can't expect everyone to make all of the dates, we would appreciate participation in several sessions if possible. A checklist will be developed prior to the survey as a guideline for what we can expect to find.

The Piedmont Chapter is extending an invitation to all VNPS members who are interested in participating in the survey. We feel like it will be good experience, and may enable us to provide this service to other landowners in our chapter area, and we thought other chapters might also like to be able to do this. Right now we are not limiting the number of participants, but we need you to sign up in advance. No prior experience is needed. Any extra pair of eyes will be a help.

We will ask you to bring your favorite identification book and a lens if you have them, and a notebook and pen. You can brush up on identification skills, learn names, press specimens, take notes or photographs, or just look for and point out new plants.

For addition information or to sign up to participate, please contact: email Sally Anderson [rccsca@visuallink.com](mailto:rccsca@visuallink.com) or phone 540-722-3072 email Bruce Jones [bsjonz@direcway.com](mailto:bsjonz@direcway.com) or phone 540/675-3152

### LOOKING AHEAD

The next regular membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. Extraordinary plantswoman **Karen Rexrode** will speak to us about using native perennials and shrubs in the garden. Contact president and program chair **Charles Smith** at 703/361-5125 for more information.

## JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Prince William Wildflower Society met on January 16, 2006 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, Virginia. President Charles Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45pm with general information and announcements. Marion Lobstein reported that she is presenting a new program on spring ephemerals at the Virginia Flower and Garden Show. She will present the program at the PWWS March meeting. Marion also announced that the long-awaited *Southern Living* article based on her interview is being finalized for the May issue of the magazine. Nancy Arrington suggested that it would be useful to get reprint permission from the magazine so the article could be used in connection with the *Flora of Virginia* Project. Marion reported that the Flora project is still in need of donations. The deadline for publication is January 2009. She also announced that the NVCC Manassas Campus Wildflower Garden and Nature Trail needs plants. She extended thanks to Deanna High and her daughter for completing a winter maintenance project at the garden. Charles announced that Governor Warner approved the Crow's Nest Preserve in Stafford County as he left office. Martha Slover reported that the Merrimac Farm conservation project was not funded.

While the presenters prepared for the program, members enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Helen Walters and Amy Hamilton.

The annual members' slide (now digital photo) show included presentations by Marion Lobstein, Martha Slover, and Deanna High.

Marion took us on a trip to near-by West Virginia sites to include visiting Helen Walters and family at the Greenback telescope and then on to Cranberry

Glades with its pitcher plants and candle loosestrife. Beartown offered sandstone caps full of mosses, ferns, and liverworts. New River Gorge was a fairyland of colorful mushrooms and Canaan Valley showed off Indian Pipes, 3-leaf cinquefoil and intermediate (spreading) dogbane.

Martha Slover had just returned from a three-week sea kayaking trip in Belize. She shared pictures to give the members a sense of the variety of sites in the country to include Mayan ruins, the mangrove islands, and snorkeling reef. One of the most unusual sites was the leaf-cutter ant trail.

Deanna High took the members to the Anza-Borrego State Park, near San Diego, CA. Her pictures showed a spectacular desert bloom last April. Many of the plants that Deanna and her brother saw are endemic to California and not familiar to those in the east. From California, Deanna took the members to the Logan Canyon in Utah where they attended a family reunion in late June/early July. The canyon was ablaze with wildflowers. She contrasted the western sites in California and Utah with the Louisiana Delta in December. Deanna showed photos of spectacular sunsets over the Louisiana bayou in December that she had taken during a visit to her childhood home.

Thanks to Marion, Martha and Deanna over the course of the evening program, the members traveled through a wide variety of sites and flora. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

*Attendance:* Marion Lobstein, Nancy Arrington, Helen Walters, Deanna High, Jack High, Dee Brown, Glen MacDonald, John Pauswinski, Kathy Ehrenberger, Don Ehrenberger, Amy Hamilton, Martha Slover, Charles Smith, Nancy Vehrs, Jeanne Fowler, Bill Hendrickson, Ruth Johnston, Charlotte Cochard.

-Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Cochard, Secretary

## BUDGET 2006

### INCOME

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Plant Sale | \$3,800        |
| Membership | <u>\$1,200</u> |
|            | \$5,000        |

### DISBURSEMENTS

#### Newsletter

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Postage/PO Box | \$ 400 |
| Printing       | \$ 900 |

#### Member Meetings

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Speaker (6 meetings)      | \$ 500 |
| Refreshments (6 meetings) | \$ 125 |
| Meeting Space             | \$ 250 |

#### Special Events

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Plant Sale                                |        |
| ▪ Plant Labels                            | \$ 100 |
| ▪ Printing/Postage                        | \$ 400 |
| ▪ State Sales Tax                         | \$ 200 |
| Garden Tour                               |        |
| ▪ Refreshments                            | \$ 100 |
| ▪ Announcement Mailing (Postage/Printing) | \$ 225 |
| ▪ Brochures (Butterfly, Woodland, etc.)   | \$ 125 |
| Annual Meeting                            |        |
| ▪ Announcement Mailing (Postage/Printing) | \$ 100 |
| ▪ Drinks                                  | \$ 40  |
| ▪ Plates/eating utensils                  | \$ 20  |
| Spring Fling                              |        |
| ▪ Raffle - Plant?                         | \$ 15  |

#### Miscellaneous

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Label Maker | \$ 100  |
| Projector   | \$1,200 |

#### Grants/Gifts

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Student Scholarships | \$ 200  |
|                      | \$5,000 |

--Diane Flaherty, Treasurer

## MORE SPRING EVENTS TO NOTE

### March 24 - Sunday, March 26 Botanical Art with Lara Call Gastinger.

Friday, March 24 - Sunday, March 26. Flower Camp, Howardville, Virginia. 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 each tuition will be donated to the Flora of Virginia Project). For more information or to register, visit [www.flowercamp.org](http://www.flowercamp.org) or contact Nancy Ross Hugo, Director, Flower Camp, 804.798.6364; nancy@flowercamp.org.

### March 25 8:30am-3:30pm National

Arboretum 20th Annual Lahr Symposium Native Plants: Cultivating a Sustainable Future *Administration Building Auditorium* This year's program brings together thought provoking topics concerning the natural world and our human attempts to be a positive presence in nature's garden. The day's speakers will address our understanding of what is—and is not—native; the conditions under which natural diversity flourishes; and how our personal landscapes can be transformed from mere ornamental spaces to be become genuine environmental assets. Symposium participants can shop early—8-10am—at the Native Plant Sale. For program brochure, fees, and symposium registration form, call 202-245-5898 or go to [www.usna.usda.gov/education/lahr.pdf](http://www.usna.usda.gov/education/lahr.pdf).

### March 25, 10:00am-2:00pm Native Plant

Sale *Plant Sales Area across street from National Bonsai & Penjing Museum* The best native plant nurseries of the region gather here to offer a wide selection of nursery-propagated native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and more at this annual sale. A portion of the proceeds supports the arboretum's Native Plant Collection. This

event is sponsored by the Friends of the National Arboretum. Free. No registration required.

**April 1, 7:45 a.m.** Songs of Spring: A Bird and Nature Walk with the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Prince William Forest. The walk will be no more than 1.5 miles through easy terrain. Walkers should meet at the Prince William Forest Park visitor center at 7:45. For more information, contact Kevin Munroe at 703/256-6895 or Prince William Forest Park at 703/221-7181

## WILDFLOWER WALKS WITH MARION LOBSTEIN

PWWS Botany Chair Marion Lobstein will be leading wildflower walks on third Sundays during the late winter and spring months:

**March 19, April 16, and May 21:** Great Falls Park, Virginia from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please call Marion to check on walks if weather is questionable.

Marion will also be leading walks to Balls Bluff Northern Virginia regional Park on **April 16** from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Call Marion at 703/257-6643 for reservations to participate in these walks, which are being led for the VNPS.

Also note: Marion will be teaching her field botany course at Blandy this summer. It is a three-week course; see [www.mblobstein.com](http://www.mblobstein.com) for details on the program and further contact information.

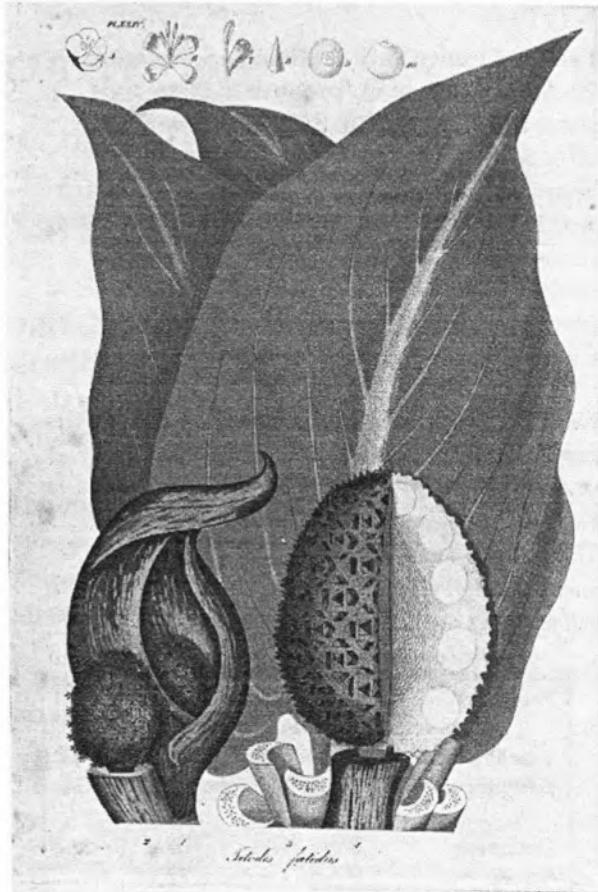
**June 1-3, 16th Annual Native Plants in the Landscape Conference,** Millersville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. More info: 717/872-3030 or email [nplc@yahoo.com](mailto:nplc@yahoo.com) or [www.millersvillenativeplants.org](http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org)

## NOTES

**Fairfax County Park Authority Sets Fire in 20-Acre Meadow.** A 'prescribed burn' took place on February 8 in Sully Woodlands at a 20-acre meadow located on the west side of Pleasant Valley Road in Centreville. The burn was intended to reduce invasive plant species, remove old plant materials, and promote a healthy native meadow that supports sensitive plant and animal species. PWWS president *Charles Smith* was quoted in the press release.

**New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS)** announces the publication of the completely revised classic Peterson *A Field Guide to the Ferns of Northeastern and Central North America*. The book is available at [www.newenglandwildflower.org](http://www.newenglandwildflower.org). (*Editor's note: I will try to get a review copy for PWWS use.*)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>President</b>  | Charles Smith, 703/361-5125<br><a href="mailto:chrssmith@msn.com">chrssmith@msn.com</a> |
| <b>Vice President</b>   | Martha Slover, 571/238-5713   |
| <b>Secretary</b>  | Charlotte Cochard, 703/330-6960   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>  | Diane Flaherty, 703/330-9862  |
| <b>Botany</b>   | Marion Lobstein, 703/536-7150   |
| <b>Conservation</b>   | OPEN  |
| <b>Education</b>  | Bonnie Fulford Nahas,<br>703/361-7409   |
| <b>Flora Liaison</b>  | Regina Yurkonis   |
| <b>History</b>  | OPEN  |
| <b>Membership</b>   | Nancy Vehrs, 703/368-2898   |
| <b>Programs</b>   | Charles Smith, 703/361-5125   |
| <b>Plant Sale</b>   | Nancy Arrington, 703/368-8431   |
| <b>Publicity</b>  | Leo Stoltz, 703/791-6175  |
| <b>Refreshments</b>   | Joann Krumviede, 703/938-4378   |
| <b>Registry</b>   | Claudia Thompson-Deahl,<br>703/754-9235   |
| <b>Editor</b>   | Deanna LaValle High, 703/392-3505   |
| <b>Advisor/VNPS</b>   |   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP</b>  | Nicky Staunton, 703/368-9803  |
| <b>Original Artwork</b> by Nicky Staunton,<br>Deadline for the May-June issue of <i>Wild News</i> is<br><b>April 15, 2006</b>                               |   |
| Please send or email information to Deanna High,<br>9613 Heather Green Drive, Manassas, VA 20112;<br><a href="mailto:deannah@agb.org">deannah@agb.org</a> . |   |
| <b>VNPS home page:</b> <a href="http://www.vnps.org">http://www.vnps.org</a>  |   |



Ictodes foetidus (Skunk cabbage)  
From Bigelow, Jacob. (1787-1879), artist. In  
*American Medical Botany*, published 1817-20.  
NYPL Digital Library, PLXXIV. Digital ID:  
1107183

**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:** March 20, 7:30 p.m. Prince William Hospital, Manassas. "Spring Ephemerals,"  
with Marion Lobstein