



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2006-06

November-December 2006

"FLOWERS and FRIENDS CLOSE-UP"

PWWS MEETING, MONDAY
NOVEMBER 20, BETHEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Kenneth R. Lawless, professor emeritus of materials science and engineering, University of Virginia, will present "Flowers and Friends Close-up" at the November 20th meeting of PWWS. This presentation will feature new close-up views of our native plants both familiar and rare. Dr. Lawless will also preview on this program "Orchids of Virginia." His excellent nature photography has been featured at the Wintergreen Wildflower Symposium and in many other venues. He is one of the best native plant photographers in Virginia and an informative and entertaining speaker.

In addition to his distinguished academic and professional career, Dr. Lawless has been an enthusiastic naturalist for almost seventy years, with his main interests in birds and flowering plants. In the past 20 years, he has photographed over 2,000 different species of ferns and flowers. He has been a regular lecturer at Garden Clubs, Wintergreen, Camp Jeep, and many sections of VNPS.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING
PRESENTATION. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Prince William Wildflower Society Annual Meeting October 8, 2006

The Annual Meeting of the Prince William Wildflower Society was held on October 8, 2006 at the home of Linda and Leo Stoltz. A beautiful autumn afternoon and yummy potluck dishes were the perfect introduction to the annual gathering.

President **Charles Smith** called the meeting to order at 2:15pm. Charles reviewed the 2007 budget proposal as published in the October *Wild News* newsletter. He explained that a line item was added for scholarships. As an example, Deanna High will be attending a workshop on writing. The Chapter will also disburse more funds to the *Flora of Virginia* Project. Leo Stoltz moved to accept the 2007 budget. Mary Sherman seconded the motion and it was carried on a voice vote.

The second order of business was the report of the nominating committee. The slate of officers for the 2007-2008 term is as follows:

President - Charles Smith
Vice President - Martha Slover
Secretary - Karen Waltman
Treasurer - Diane Flaherty

Helen Walter moved to accept the slate as presented. *Jeanne Endrikat* seconded the motion. During the discussion, Charles emphasized the need for more members to step-up and fill offices and chairs. The nominating committee spoke to several members who are willing to help or apprentice in positions. He announced that *Bonnie Fulford-Nahas* will assume the Program Chair. The motion to approve the slate of officers was carried on a voice vote.

Announcements: *Nancy Arrington* recommended members take note of the American Conservation Film Festival, November 2-5 in Shepherdstown, WV. More information is available at the website, www.conservationfilm.org.

Tiana Camfiord recommended a CSPAN2 interview with the author of *Lost Mountain*, a book about the impact of strip mining in the Appalachia Mountains.

Leo Stoltz reported on the September 27 forum with the candidates for Prince William County Supervisor. Questions centered around development issues and protection of the Rural Crescent.

Charles thanked *Linda and Leo Stoltz* for hosting the meeting.

Charles explained the role of the Conservation Alliance, a consortium of not-for-profits to help inform and educate the public. The "Open Space" Initiative is next topic to be addressed.

Leo explained the role of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters. In his position as Conservation Chair for VNPS, he links the organization to other conservation groups in the state. In alliance, the voice to support conservation issues is stronger. PWWS needs a Conservation Chair to connect with VNPS and other groups.

Charles announced the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia plant sale at Meadowlark Gardens on October 14, 2006. October 14-15 is the Gaia conference in Arlington. October 21-

22, *Ken and Fran Bass* are holding an Open House for the Fairfax Audubon Society.

Chapter volunteers are needed to present program for garden clubs and other groups. Charles will train and assist presenters.

The PWWS November meeting will include a presentation by a retired botanist, Dr. Ken Lawless. Recommendations for future programs should be made to *Bonnie Fulford-Nahas*. The meeting adjourned at 3pm and was followed by a guided tour of the Stoltz gardens.

Attendance:

Nancy Arrington, Mary Sherman, Stan Fowler, Jean Fowler, Charles Smith, Tiana Camfiord, Jeanne Endrikat, Jack High, Deanna High, Linda Stoltz, Linda Stoltz, Rob Walter, Helen Walter, Mary Shaw, Amy Hamilton, Betty Truax, Charlotte Cochard

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Cochard, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have been enjoying the leaf change - although, living in the woods, I have learned not to fight the fall of the leaves, but to work with them. I am reminded that the color green in leaves is merely the shared circumstance of having chlorophyll to convert the sun's energy into sugar compounds to nourish the tree. The true colors of the leaves are those we see when the chlorophyll stops being produced, like a person taking off a coat to reveal a different colored shirt beneath. I also remember to appreciate each species and organism again as the black gum shows us its scarlet and the beech its grayish-yellow tones.

I was pleased to see old and new members at our chapter annual meeting in October. I want to thank *Linda and Leo Stoltz* again for their hospitality in hosting the meeting. I also want to welcome *Karen Waltman* as the newly elected Secretary to our board and thank *Charlotte Cochard* who has served so well in that position for the last four years. We are also happy to have *Bonnie Fulford-Nahas*

back on our board as she takes over the Program Chair position. Please remember to forward any ideas that you may have for programs to Bonnie. Although we were not very successful in recruiting members to serve in board positions, quite a few said that they would like to help out with chapter activities. This really heartens me, because our organization has many wonderful people, and it relies solely on all of us pitching in to make it work.

GAIA Conference. The weekend following the annual meeting, October 14-15, *Martha Slover* and I joined other VNPS members at the Gaia conference in Arlington. I was proud that both PWS and VNPS helped sponsor the event. The speakers were all very good. They ranged from top scientists in their fields such as Drs. Robert Correll and Lynn Margulis, to Native American educator Dr. Lloyd Pinkham, to the fiery renaissance farmer Joel Salatin. I came away energized with many thoughts about where I am and where we are going. Lloyd Pinkham reminded me that there are many ways of looking at life and how humans interact with the earth. Joel got the crowd fired up about having us consumers remain closely connected to the production of our food and ensuring that food production works with natural systems rather than just manipulating them to get a particular product to market. Robert Correll was one of several scientists who reminded us of the peril that Earth's systems are in while remaining positive about steps to curb carbon output to begin reigning in climatic changes as soon as possible. Lynn Margulis was both hilarious and energizing as she took jabs at ignorance within our society while inspiring wonder at the forms and processes that life on Earth undertakes.

While the conference was inspiring, it was also sobering. The message from many presenters was much like a state of the Earth address: the state of the Earth is changing. Although it has changed many times in the past, the 10,000

years of human civilization have been in a period of great stability. Over the next several hundred years there will be instability in the planet's systems as they adjust to new climatic conditions, and our ability to adapt while more people than ever before are trying to eek out a living will put our species and all of the others to a difficult test. The role of our native plant society is an important one. We are stewards of our landscapes and the living communities which reside here. Our task will be to increase our understanding of those systems and inspire an appreciation of them in others. We will have to allow room amongst our ever expanding human footprint for those living communities to adjust to the coming changes. This will require action as well as tolerance because we are all in this together.

It is fitting that our November membership meeting falls in the same week as the Thanksgiving holiday. It is a time of year to be thankful and reflect on what is past and what is to come. I hope to see many of you there.

--Charles Smith

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nurturing the Written Word

October 10-13, Garden in the Woods, Framingham, Massachusetts. I attended an advanced garden writing workshop taught by Virginian C. Colston Burrell and Northwest garden writer Lucy Hardiman.

Garden in the Woods is the showcase garden for the New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS). Covering only 45 hilly acres, the multi-layered woodland of ancient rock, mature native trees, soft twisting paths, a diverse array of native shrubs, ephemerals, ferns, mosses, and more—are all tended carefully but not intrusively by a full-time horticultural staff of four. Workshop participants were allowed to stroll through the garden during breaks and even though little was in bloom, there was still plenty to

admire: just outside our classroom window fluttered golden-orange-tinged-with-red leaves of the American Smoketree, *Cotinus obovatus*. Even though the workshop was not limited to native plant interests, a significant portion of the discussions and writing touched on natives and native alternatives, and Cole Burrell generously signed copies of his new book, *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants* (Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2006), for workshop participants. (I have a copy if you would like to take a look.)

I extend my sincere thanks to PWWS for its support and generous contribution to the cost of the workshop. The experience was singularly intense and highly stimulating—the advice and lessons learned from Cole, Lucy, and my fellow classmates are still spinning around in my head—and Fall color in New England lived up to its legend. I hope to be able to polish and share one or two of the writing exercises begun in the workshop in future issues of *Wild News*.

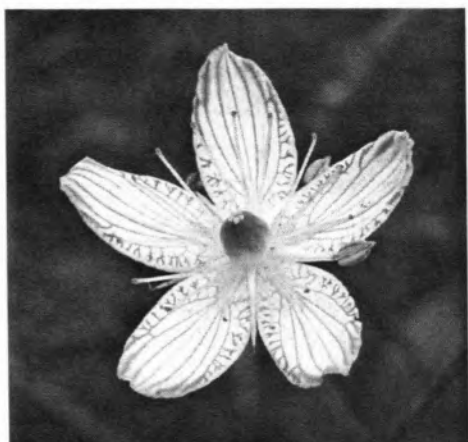
--Deanna High, editor, *Wild News*

DOWN IN THE VALLEY WITH VNPS

Virginia Native Plant Society: Annual Meeting, September 22, 2006

PWWS chapter members Martha Slover, Marion Lobstein, Nicky Staunton, Nancy Arrington, and Deanna High attended the two-day meeting hosted by the Shenandoah Chapter at the Frontier Museum in Staunton, Virginia.

On Saturday-afternoon, three of us chose the guided walk on Mueller's Fen, a ramble in the wild that turned out to

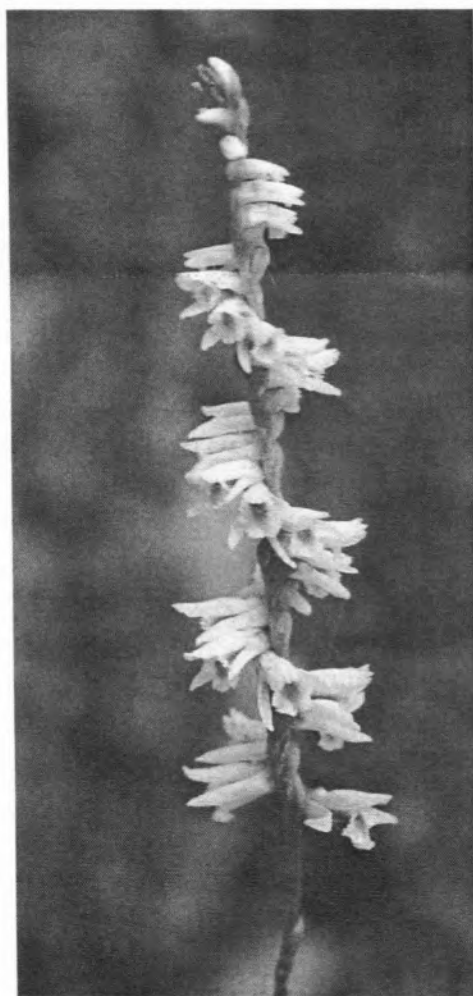


be a rich botanical treat. Mueller's Fen—a VNPS registry site also known as "Folly Mills Creek Fen Natural Area Preserve," is located in the floodplain of Folly Mills Creek, a tributary of the Shenandoah River. According to its

official site description

(www.state.va.us/dcr/dnh/follymills.html) a fen is a "special type of wetland with surface water originating from artesian springs and groundwater seepage at the base of a hill..." and that "these types of wetlands were once more common in the Shenandoah Valley, but most of the examples have been lost through drainage and conversion to other land uses. The vegetation is dominated by sedges and other herbaceous plants, cattails, and scattered shrubs."

A beautiful private tract sandwiched between humpy low mountains, Mueller's fen is fed by "artesian springs from an aquifer in the fractured limestone bedrock of the region. Here, calcareous



or circumneutral ground water fosters the establishment of an interesting plant community with several rare and unusual plants." On our arrival, one of the landowners—Dr. Robert Mueller—greeted our group of 15 or so enthusiasts, whetting our appetites with report of various rare and not-so-rare-but-still-beautiful natives documented in the Fen. He also advised us that it was very,



very muddy, due to recent heavy rains and a voracious beaver. The beaver damage was remarkable, and several of us (having ignored earlier the advice of our walk leader, *Penelope True*, to wear boots or wellies, did get our feet a bit wet—sopping to mid-shin, actually—fording a muddy stream in the fen.

We were well compensated for suffering cold feet, however, as the fen was stunning, and many flowers that we did not expect to be were still in bloom. Among the most notable were several daintily blooming stands of *Parnassia asarifolia* (Grass of Parnassus), a rare sight so late in the year. Swathes of very dark blue Great

Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) set off some discussion of the color difference observed between our paler blue garden blooms and these in the wild. The fen yielded more of its riches as we wandered, cameras in hand.

Sighting of a single, perfect specimen of the wild orchid, *Spiranthes lucida* (Shining Ladies' Tresses), spiraling in beatific white grace, inspired a flurry of photo ops among the walkers.

Other natives noted in some profusion included Bog buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) a member of the gentian family; *Asters umbellatus*, *dumosus*, *patens*, *novae-angliae*; Dodder (found on ironweed), Vervain, Agrimony, Coralberry, Swamp lousewort, Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), *Nasturtium officinale* (watercress), *Salix discolor* (common further north



but relatively rare here), Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendulum rubrum*), New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), *Bidens laevis*, Lycopus, Water Horehound, Sweet Everlasting, and, scattered in several places on the fen, lovely, very pale-yellow *Helianthus giganteus*. Other walks sponsored by the Shenandoah chapter yielded different treasures, including the choice specimen of closed gentian (*Gentiana clausa*) spotted by Marion on the Reddish Knob Aster Trip in the George Washington Mountain Forest. (See picture on the last page of this newsletter.)

—Deanna High and Marion Lobstein



THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR A NEW FLORA FOR THE OLD DOMINION!

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FLORA OF VIRGINIA PROJECT November 2006

On August 18, 2006, the Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project (FVP) celebrated the 5th anniversary of its first meeting. Over the last five years the FVP, working with VNPS and other Virginia organizations and individuals, has made exciting progress:

- A contract with the University of Virginia Press to publish the Flora of Virginia has been offered and is in the final stages of negotiation.
- Johnny Townsend, Staff Botanist with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program

has agreed to be the third author of the Flora, joining current authors Alan Weakley and Chris Ludwig

- The Flora of Virginia will be a one volume manual for plant identification of 3,800 native and naturalized species occurring in Virginia.
- The manual will feature 1,435 core species illustrations and 35 plates to assist with species difficult to identify.
- More than 500 of the core illustrations have been completed with 200 more scheduled for completion by the end of this year.
- Preparation of the manual is progressing:
 - Dichotomous keys to identify genera and species of one half of the 204 families of vascular plants in Virginia are complete.
 - The first stage of writing species descriptions is complete for one half

of the 3,800 species; work on genus descriptions has begun.

- The second stage of species descriptions using herbarium specimens is underway and is complete for 250 species.
- Final descriptions of 140 species are complete.

Fundraising continues:

- \$2,200,000 Project budget has been raised.
- A grant of \$80,000 from the Virginia Environmental Endowment will make funds available in 2007.
- A professional grant writer was hired last spring.

Outreach continues:

- Presentations to groups, articles in newspapers and magazines (the May issue of *Southern Living* in the Mid-Atlantic supplement included an article, "Finding Virginia's Flora," on the Flora of Virginia Approximately \$620,000 of the Project and on Marion Lobstein.)

HOW TO SUPPORT THE FLORA OF VIRGINIA PROJECT

You may support the Flora of Virginia Project by making a contribution of any amount. **Donors of \$1,000 and above will receive a first edition of the Flora of Virginia and have their name inscribed in the book. Donations may be made in multiple year pledges.**

Please make checks payable to: The Flora of Virginia Project and mail checks to:
The Flora of Virginia Project
P.O. Box 512
Richmond, VA 23218-0512

For questions or to donate securities, please call Chris Ludwig, Director of the Flora of Virginia Project, at 804 -371-6206.

Donations to the Flora of Virginia Project, a 501(c) (3) organization, are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

--Marion Lobstein

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 18, 8:00-10:30 a.m. Prince William Conservation Alliance. Tour the Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge and watch wildlife in Woodbridge with the Prince William Conservation Alliance. RSVP is requested as the group size is capped at 25 participants on a first-come basis. Meet at the Rippon VRE main parking lot at the intersection of Rippon Blvd. and Farm Creek Drive. Go to www.pwconserve.org for more details and directions.

Saturday, November 18th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Nighttime Owl Prowl, Prince William Forest Park Authority
Join Kevin Munroe, staff naturalist for the Audubon at Home in Northern Virginia

program, for this nighttime search for owls. Meet in the visitor center for a short presentation on owls. A short hike will follow. Please bring good walking shoes, a flashlight and weather-appropriate clothing.

Sunday, November 19th, 2:00- 3:30 p.m., Happy 70th Birthday, Prince William Forest Park!

Meet at the visitor center. Sponsored by the Friends of Prince William Forest Park.

DECEMBER --JANUARY

Sunday, December 10, Gardener's Holiday at Green Spring. Noon-4:00 p.m. Last minute shopping opportunity! Green Spring's Garden Gate Gift Shop has free refreshments, holiday music, and beautiful decorations fashioned by talented volunteers, as well as a great collection of gardening tools, apparel, and books. **Now through December 27, 9:30-4:30 weekdays and Saturday; Sundays, 12:30-4:00. ART SHOW** at Green Spring's Horticulture Center. Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region.

January 24 9:00 -4:30, Invasive Plants Workshop.
Sponsored by the U.S. National Arboretum.

Administration Building Auditorium. This workshop provides information on securing funding and negotiating contracts to remove invasive plants from public and private landscapes and natural areas. An afternoon field exercise features the arboretum's work in managing invasives. Fee \$50. Register at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/>.



Sources: VNPS Fen walk: www.state.va.us; Marion Lobstein, Nancy Arrington, et al.

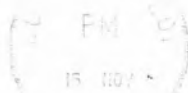
Photos: *Helianthus giganteus*, *Gentiana clausa*, Swamp loosestrife, walkers in Mueller's Fen, Grass of Parnassus: Marion Lobstein

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY
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President: Charles Smith
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**HEADS UP: JANUARY 15, 2007 ANNUAL
PWWS MEMBER SLIDE SHOW!**

Please contact Charles Smith if you'd like to participate. Projector and laptop provided or bring your own. Please plan to limit your show to no more than 15-20 slides.

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: "FLOWERS and FRIENDS CLOSE-UP" presented by Dr. Kenneth Lawless, MONDAY NOVEMBER 20, BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7:30 p.m.