



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2008-05

September-October 2008

1983-2008 Celebrating 25 years of PWWS!

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK PICNIC
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008
THE STONE HOUSE, MERRIMAC FARM
14712 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville, Va. 20181

1930

1954

2030
8
24 yrs

SCHEDULE

12 p.m.

Potluck lunch. Pick Up Your Gift at the Door! Drawings for Door Prizes

1:30 p.m.

Chapter Business Meeting, President's Report, Election of Chapter Officers, Vote on Proposed 2009 Budget

2:00 p.m.

Woodland Walk (1.2 miles) led by Kim Hosen of the Prince William Conservation Alliance, Plant and Seed Swap

Come and celebrate the Prince William Wildflower Society's quarter of a century anniversary at the Stone House at Merrimac Farm, October 4, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

For the picnic, bring a main dish, a salad, dessert, or vegetable (and a serving utensil) to share with the group in a potluck picnic; PWWS will provide drinks, utensils, ice, and plates. If you can, RSVP Karen Waltman at 703-830-5710 so she will know how many to expect or call her to arrange transportation if you need a ride to the meeting.

After the picnic, there will be a short business meeting where we elect PWWS officers (see list below). Kim Hosen will lead a tour of the property after the picnic, plus there will be door prizes and other goodies. All are welcome.

Directions to the Stone House, Merrimac Farm: From the intersection of Prince William Parkway/Rte 234 and Nokesville Road/Route 28, follow Nokesville Road/Rte 28 South for 2.8 miles. Start looking for signs directing you



to the PWWS Annual Meeting. Turn left at Aden Road (Rte 646) and go .7 mile. (There is no Aden Road sign at this left turn, just the Rte. 646 sign.) Make a definite left turn to stay on Aden Road, and continue for 4.8 miles. Turn right at Fleetwood Drive—again, there is no street sign, but there is a pale yellow, two-story farmhouse at the intersection, and the Aden Grocery store is on your left. Go 1.2 miles on Fleetwood Drive. Turn left at Deepwood Lane, a gravel road, and go 1.5 miles to the small, gravel parking lot. If you are early, continue .1 mile to the Stone



House, where you can park. If there is no remaining parking at the house, you may drop off passengers and park back in the parking lot. If lost, call Karen's cell phone at 703-314-7197 or Kim Hosen at 703-499-4954.



As we celebrate our 25 years, PWWS salutes its charter members:

Nancy Arrington (founder), Marie Davis, Jeanne Fowler, Judy Gallagher, Jeannette Garrison, Elaine Haug, Mary LeKander, Marion Lobstein, Frances & Phil Louer, Ed Milhous, Nicky Staunton, Claudia Thompson-Deahl, and Roxetta Wyer (who has maintained her membership despite having moved years ago to the state of Washington.)

Thank you for your continued support over the years. —Nancy Vehrs, plant sale chair, membership chair, and coordinator of garden tours.



BLASTS from the PAST...A QUARTER CENTURY WITH PWWS

This special edition of *Wild News* celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Prince William Wildflower Society. Scattered throughout the issue are items from the *Wild News* newsletter as far back as 1988, with founding member Nancy Arrington's "Natives of the Garden" column, a butterfly and wildflower word search puzzle from 1998, when Nancy Vehrs took over the editorship of *Wild News* from Nancy Arrington, a front-page of the November 1991 issue, plus some of Nicky Staunton's beautiful line drawings used in past issues.

EVENTS of NOTE

Wednesday, October 1, 2008, Four Points by Sheraton, 10800 Vandroor Ln. Manassas. *Prince William Committee of 100* presents "PWC's Comprehensive Plan Update Proposes 25 New High-Density Mixed Use Centers...Which Center Is Near Your Neighborhood? How Will County Infrastructure Be Funded? Is This Smart Growth?" Speakers include Ray Utz, chief long range planner, Prince William County, Michael Vanderpool, land use attorney, Vanderpool, Frostick and Nishanar; Stewart Schwartz, executive director, Coalition for Smarter Growth; Bob Marshall, 13th district delegate, Virginia General Assembly; Moderator, Peter Galuszka, journalist. Please join the Prince William Committee of 100 for what is sure to be a lively and spirited debate. Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 (advance reservations required); and the program at 7:45. The program is open and free to the public. To make dinner reservations, email www.secretarycommitteeof100@yahoo.com.

Thursday, October 9, 7:00 pm. Arlington Central Library
Get Fit, Get Smart, GET OUT!"

A talk and panel discussion on Children and Nature

The research and anecdotal evidence is pouring in . . . our kids (and us!) need more time outside for their health, learning ability, and general well-being. Join in the discussion and find out what groups and organizations in Arlington and across the country are doing to get kids outside.

This program will feature a short talk by Anne Keisman, online media coordinator for Green Hour at the National Wildlife Federation. The talk will be followed by a panel/audience discussion. Arlington Central Library is located at 1015 N. Quincy Street in Arlington, within walking distance of both Virginia Square and Ballston Metro stops on the Orange Line. For more information, call 703/528-5406 or 703/228-6427. For more details, call Martin Ogle, chief naturalist, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority at 703-528-5406.



NATURE JOURNALLING (with a twist) Workshop led by Rhonda Roebuck at Flower Camp, Howardsville, Virginia. **October 24-26.** Tuition is \$350, which includes meals, instruction, and accommodation.

Learn to observe and record natural phenomena in new ways during this workshop led by artist Rhonda Roebuck. This workshop is for anyone who wants to learn to observe more carefully and record their observations more creatively. To register or for more information visit www.flowercamp.org or contact Nancy Ross Hugo at 804-798-6364 or nancy@flowercamp.org

FALL SEEDLING SALE IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

October 25, 2008, Prince William County Fairgrounds. Tree Seedling Sale, Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District. Seedling species include many natives at good prices, such as arrowwood viburnum, black gum, highbush blueberry, elderberry,



persimmon, pin oak, red-osier dogwood, redbud (see picture inset), sassafras, sweetbay magnolia, sycamore, tulip poplar, Virginia pine, willow oaks, and witch hazel.

Deadline to preorder seedlings is October 17, but there may be leftovers available on October 25th at the fairgrounds if you miss the preorder date. Prices begin at \$7 for 5 seedlings, and top out at \$57 for 50 seedlings. For preorder form and more information on the

seedlings, including growth habit, Latin name, deer and gypsy moth resistance, and pictures of habit and bloom, go to <http://www.pwsxcd.org/Events/events.htm> or contact Nicole Ethier at nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org or call Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District at 703-594-3621.

Nancy Arrington's Beautyberry article below is from the September/October 1991 newsletter; redbud photo: Albert F.W. Vick, NPIN Image Id 860, Native Plant Information Network, Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas at Austin; beautyberry (callicarpa Americana) photo: Sally and Andy Wasowski, NPIN Image Id 21668, also Native Plant Information Network, www.wildflower.org

Sad News

Ann Messick, founding member of the Northern Neck chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, and a past board member of Northern Neck Audubon Society died September 1. Ann led many birding and nature walks and presented many programs to the chapter membership. When Hickory Hollow was threatened with becoming an industrial park, Ann was one of the first to rally folks to save it. She was also president of "Friends of Hickory Hollow," and successfully led the fight to preserve the area.

—Charles Smith

As many of you already know, Bob Camfiord, husband of longtime PWWS member Tiana Camfiord, passed away August 7. A memorial service celebrating Bob's extraordinary life was held August 23 in Falls Church. PWWS expresses its deepest sympathy to Tiana and her family.

NATIVES FOR THE GARDEN

NANCY ARRINGTON
Propagation Chairman



Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

The aptly named beautyberry's vivid magenta berry clusters would be beautiful at any time of year but are especially appealing because of their appearance in October and November as the gardening year is winding down. A member of the Verbenaceae family, beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) grows naturally in woodlands, old fields and woods edges throughout the southeastern U.S. In Virginia it grows along the coastal plain but is easy to grow in gardens throughout the state. *Callicarpa* comes from the Greek *kallos* meaning beautiful, and *karpas* for fruit.

This multi-stemmed shrub grows 4-8' tall with a spread of about 6'. Opposite, bluntly toothed 3½-6" leaves are light green through the summer. Clusters of light pink to lavender tubular flowers that are about 1/3" long are borne in the leaf axils from June into August. As fall approaches the leaves turn yellow

green berries change to an unusual shiny dark "hot pink" or magenta. The 1/3" berries are arranged in 1½-2" clusters that encircle the stems. Berries show up best after the leaves have fallen which is usually around mid-October. They remain attractive until the birds eat them or a hard freeze shrivels them which can be as late as Thanksgiving.

In the garden, locate beautyberry where its berries will be most effective. It can serve as a background shrub through the summer and then be a star performer in the fall when combined with late blooming goldenrods and asters, and ornamental grasses with an underplanting of the pinkish 'Burgundy Glow' ajuga. The berries show up best against a background of evergreen shrubs or trees or a suitably colored fence or wall. Keep it away from colors it will clash with such as red and orange leaves and berries.

Berry production will be best when beautyberry is grown in full sun in deep, organic-rich soil with adequate moisture. However, it is adaptable to poor soil and thrives in half shade. It is drought-tolerant after the first year or two. Cut stems back in early spring since flowers and fruit appear on new wood.

Beautyberry is easy to propagate by seed which needs no pre-treatment or by softwood cuttings. Plants are available by mail from several native plant nurseries.



President's Corner

I have enjoyed being the president over the past six years. We have a great organization, made special by two things: good people with a passion for the natural world. I think we do have several challenges that we have to face together. One is to get more people involved in doing things for the chapter and for the state organization. The second is to spread appreciation of nature and foster a sense of stewardship among a much broader portion of human population. And the third is to try to protect more natural areas.

I have recently found many of my own thoughts and feelings about how we live on the land and how we can improve our caretaking on our own little plot of earth echoed and expressed eloquently in Douglas Tallamy's book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*. Tallamy is an entomologist and landowner. He does a wonderful job of describing why it is important to use native plants in order to provide habitat for wildlife and sustain diversity in our increasingly fragmented landscape. I highly recommend that you read the book and share it with others.

Thank you all for your passion, and please try to do your part in providing good places for native wild things.

--Charles

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



exp. 10/08

Nancy Arrington
8388 Briarmont Lane
Manassas, VA 20112-2755

*NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, MERRIMAC FARM,
Noon-3 ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK PICNIC*
