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WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2009-03

May-June 2009

Prince William Wildflower Society Member Meeting Monday, May 20, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas "Bluebirds & Bluebells at Merrimac Farm"

Join us next Monday evening for a stimulating program on local conservation efforts at the Fellowship Hall, Bethel Lutheran Church. Kim Hosen, Director, Prince William Conservation Alliance, will present "Bluebirds and Bluebells at Merrimac Farm" detailing the purpose and methods used to help the "blue" flora and fauna thrive at Merrimac Farm. The program is free and open to all; refreshments will be served. If you have questions or need a ride to the meeting, please call Helen Walter, PWS President, at 703-330-9614. (Bethel Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Plantation Lane and Rte. 234 Business in Manassas.)

President's Letter

Did everybody get out to see the gardens on tour April 19? Many thanks to Jeanne and Hans Endrikat, Martha Slover, and Nancy Vehrs for opening their wonderful gardens for us and giving us ideas for ways to improve our own yards. Now we know what to do with all the plants we got at the plant sale on May 9.

A few hardy souls gathered at Merrimac Farm on Saturday morning, May 2, for the first annual statewide assault on invasive plants, and this year the focus was on garlic mustard, which is a problem all over the state. According to state president Sally Anderson, they can really see an improvement after a few years of consistently pulling it out of the trillium up at The Thompson. Garlic mustard is trying to take over the floodplain at Merrimac Farm where the bluebells grow, and we made a good start on it, but new plants will come up from the seeds already there, so this is a work in progress. It will help if more of us learn to recognize it and pull it up wherever we see it. Before it sets seed it can be left on the ground to decompose, but plants with seeds should be bagged and trashed. Or you can take it home and eat it. The reason it's here is that European settlers brought it over for a food crop. It's a plant in the mustard family that tastes like garlic flavored mustard greens. Probably healthy, too.* Ask Kim Hosen about it when she talks to us at our meeting on May 18.



--Helen Walter, president

*See recipe for garlic mustard pesto, below! And check out a terrific Web site, WeedUS: Database of Plants Invading Natural Areas in the United States (www.invasive.org) for the latest on garlic mustard and other nasty invasives, such as *Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese stiltgrass; also known as Nepalese browntop.)

BECOMING NATURAL ENEMY NUMBER ONE ?

Rabbits don't eat invasive garlic mustard (unfortunately), but you might want to try it...

Wildman Steve Brill's Garlic Mustard Pesto

Garlic Mustard Pesto

4 cloves of garlic
3 tbs. garlic mustard taproots
3/4 cups parsley
1 cup garlic mustard leaves
1 cup basil
1-1/2 cup low-sodium olives
2 cups walnuts or pine nuts
1/2 cup mellow miso
1-1/4 cups olive oil or as needed

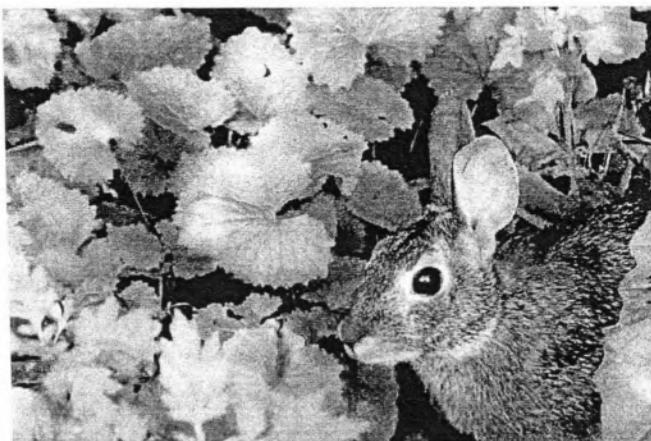


Photo: Courtesy of Sue Sweeney, www.themondaygarden.com

1. Chop the garlic and garlic mustard roots in a food processor.
2. Add the parsley, garlic, garlic mustard and basil and chop.
3. Add the nuts and chop coarsely.
4. Add the olive oil and miso and process until you've created a coarse paste.
Makes 4 cups

Source: www.wildmanstevebrill.com

Editor's Note: And if that isn't enough for you...check out the garlic mustard cookbook, *From Pest to Pesto* or "Garlic Mustard – Eat It to Beat It!" Courtesy of Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (West Virginia) and available in PDF form at www.afha.us/garlic_mustard/index.html

Another Great Garden Tour!



Mother Nature smiled upon us for our annual spring garden tour April 19. Held a week earlier than in years past, we had pleasant weather and beat the oppressive heat of our usual weekend. Plus, the Virginia bluebells and other early spring wildflowers were still in full glory! The flowers in my garden shared the stage with two flickers who were carving out a nesting cavity high in a dead tree that day.

Many thanks to **Jeanne Endrikat** and **Martha Slover** who graciously joined me in opening their gardens

this year. And thanks also to our wonderfully dedicated volunteers who served as greeters

or baked treats: Joyce Andrew, Nancy Arrington, Tiana Camfiord, Jeanne Fowler, Harry Glasgow, Brenda Hallam, Amy Hamilton, Kim Hosen, Cindy Peterson, Charles Smith, Nicky Staunton, Betty Truax, Helen Walter, and Janet Wheatcraft.

We are always seeking native plant gardens for the annual tour. If you are interested in opening your garden, please contact me at nvehrs1@yahoo.com, 703-368-2898.

--Nancy Vehrs

Monday, March 16, 2009 Prince William Wildflower Society Meeting Minutes

The guest speaker, *Ellen Percy Miller*, executive director of Turn the Mill Around Campaign was introduced. She spoke on the Chapman/Beverly Mill in Broad Run, Virginia, on Highway 66 and Route 55.

The mid-eighteenth century mill is a key Civil War period landmark and was the scene of significant action during the Second Manassas campaign in August 1862. The mill was first built in 1742. Why build it at Thoroughfare Gap? There was falling water where Broad Run drops, there was hard quartzite rock, which provided a quarry close to the building site, and there was transportation for the milled products.

Rebuilt in 1858 by John Chapman, the mill was 7 floors high and had 74 windows and doors. Millers didn't want to light lanterns inside a mill because the wheat would ignite too easily and cause fires, so the many windows let in much needed light.

The mill walls are 4 feet thick at the bottom and 18 inches at the top. It took \$1.5 million to stabilize the mill following the devastating fire in the autumn of 1998.

The miller would buy the farmers' grain cheap, and the tall building was used to store the grain until the miller could get around to processing it. During the Civil War, the mill was used to process meats to supply Confederate soldiers. After World War II, William Chrysler wanted corn for chicken feed, so he bought the mill for that purpose. Production stopped in 1951.

Ms. Miller said the Turn The Mill Around Campaign is committed to restoring the mill wheel and returning the building to an operating mill.

Garden Tour-April 19, 2009

Nancy Vehrs spoke on the upcoming PWWS Garden Tour and Plant Sale. She asked for donated baked goods and hosts at the garden tour on April 19.

Plant Sale-May 9, 2009

For the May 9 Plant Sale Nancy Vehrs asked for volunteers who could be there very early to help set up. The sale starts at 9 am, and workers could be there about 6:30 am.

Announcements

- Jeanne Endrikat is in charge of the quilt show at PW Fairgrounds Sat. and Sun., March 21 and 22, and she asked any interested to attend.
- Kim Hosen needs volunteers at the PW Bluebell Festival on April 4.
- A Garlic Mustard Pull is Sunday, March 29, 10am to 3pm at the Thompson Wildlife Management Area.
- There is an exotic plant removal day in MAEPPC-google for information on the day.

- Charles Smith said he could conduct programs for groups, if anyone is interested.
- Next PWWS membership meeting is third Monday in May.

Those present included: *Speaker Ellen Percy Miller, John Pauswinski, Effie and Charles Smith, Debbie Hutton, Betty Truax, Joyce and Tom Andrew, Rick and Diane Flaherty, Brenda Hallam, Jeanne Fowler, Amy Hamilton, Joann Krumviede, Nancy Vehrs, Nell Benton, Helen Walter, Julie Sarr, Cindy Patterson, William Hendrickson, Helen Rawls and Karen Waltman*

Respectively submitted,
Karen Waltman, PWWS Secretary

PWWS 27th ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE A SUCCESS!

The weather gods smiled on last Saturday's plant sale at Bethel Lutheran Church grounds. Nancy Vehrs and Nancy Arrington, co-chairs of the plant sale, report that 664 plants were sold and we gathered seven new or renewing members into the fold.

Preliminary sales figures totaled \$2,242 in plant sales and \$210 in membership.

Plant sale Co-chairs Nancy Vehrs and Nancy Arrington, along with the PWWS board, would like to especially thank the many volunteers who helped with the sale and the work of the sale. They include: Annette Baker-Toole, Nell Benton, Tiana Camfiord, Charlotte and Gary Cochard, Paul Davis, Jeanne and Hans Endrikat, Brenda Hallam, Deanna High, Debbie Hutton, Joann Krumviede, Jane and Bill Lehman, Frances & Phil Louer, Cindy Patterson, Charles Smith, Betty Truax, Helen Walter. And, of course, a whopping thank you to our many native plant customers—our neighbors new and old.

Great job, Nancy and Nancy!



Scene from Saturday's Plant Sale



One to Get Ready...PWWS Plant Sale Customers Line Up for the 9:00 Opening

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia 20108-0083

Chartered January 10, 1983

Logo: *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia Bluebells)

President & Programs, Helen Walter, helenwalt43@verizon.net (Tel: 703-330-9614)

Vice-President, Betty Truax, emtruax@comcast.net (Tel: 703-794-8272)

Secretary, Karen Waltman, geraldwaltman@hotmail.com (Tel: 703-830-5710)

Treasurer, Diane Flaherty, talltrees@verizon.net or dflaherty@tnc.org (Tel: 703-330-9862 or 703-247-3732)

Botany, Marion Lobstein, mblobstein@earthlink.net (Tel: 703-536-7150 or 703-257-6643)

Conservation & Education, Charles Smith, chrlsmith@msn.com (Tel: 703-361-5125 or 703-324-8555)

Membership & Plant Sale Co-chair, Nancy Vehrs, nvehrs1@yahoo.com or nancy.vehrs@fairfaxcounty.gov (Tel: 703-368-2898 or 703-324-2351)

Newsletter Editor, Deanna High, deannahigh@gmail.com (Tel: 703-392-3505 or 703-606-9988)

Plant Sale Co-Chair, Nancy Arrington, narrington1@verizon.net (Tel: 703-368-8431 or 703-368-9711 or 703-408-7446)

Publicity, VACANT

Refreshments, Joann Krumviede, dkdk1@verizon.net (Tel: 703-938-4378)

Registry, VACANT

Advisor/NPS2-VP, Nicky Staunton, Staunton@earthlink.net (Tel: 5400-547-2813)

NEWS from ALL OVER: POLLINATION

This just in from our friends in Loudoun County, courtesy of <http://greenerloudoun.wordpress.com/>
Air pollution disrupts more than our view [27 03 2009]

Studies show air pollution can mask the scent of flowers, confusing pollinators. (Studies are currently underway to determine if air pollution affects mating among mammals as well.)

From physorg.com:1218166844d6yp9le:

"Air pollution from power plants and automobiles is destroying the fragrance of flowers and thereby inhibiting the ability of pollinating insects to follow scent trails to their source, a new University of Virginia study indicates. This could partially explain why wild populations of some pollinators, particularly bees – which need nectar for food – are declining in several areas of the world, including California and the Netherlands."

The study, which appears online in the journal *Atmospheric Environment* goes on:

"The scent molecules produced by flowers in a less polluted environment, such as in the 1800s, could travel for roughly 1,000 to 1,200 meters; but in today's polluted environment downwind of major cities, they may travel only 200 to 300 meters," said Jose D. Fuentes, a professor of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia and a co-author of the study. "This makes it increasingly difficult for pollinators to locate the flowers." The result, potentially, is a vicious cycle where pollinators struggle to find enough food to sustain their populations, and populations of flowering plants, in turn, do not get pollinated sufficiently to proliferate and diversify.

From Mary Ann Lawler of the Powtomack Chapter: The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign has put online the first of their series of ecoregional guides (using Bailey's Ecoregions) on plants for pollinators at www.pollinator.org/guides.htm.

Check out Anne Raver's recent "Come Hither, Bumblebee, and Pollinate," *In the Garden*, *New York Times*, April 30, 2009 edition. Noted in the article is Gordon Frankie, entomologist at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Frankie, who has surveyed 1,000 different plants, both native and nonnative, observes, "Only 50 were native plants, but of that 50, 80 percent were attractive to pollinators. In contrast, only 10 percent of the 950 nonnatives were attractive to pollinators." Free download of article, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/30/garden/30GARDEN.html?pagewanted=1>.

And, if you missed the reprint in March-April's *Wild News*, a must-read is Marion Lobstein's fascinating essay on spring wildflower pollination. You can view/download it at www.vmps.org (click on the Prince William Chapter).

PWWS Welcomes 5 New Members

Stephen Bodalay, Woodbridge
Brian McDougal, Manassas
Kelli McKee, Haymarket
Karen Phillips, Manassas
Bonny Shilton, Manassas

EVENTS of NOTE

Thursday, May 21, 10-11:30 a.m. "Water Quality Improvement with Rain Gardens," with Jim McGlone, Virginia Dept. of Forestry. Learn how rain gardens improve water quality, provide habitat, mitigate flooding, and reduce erosion. Then examine a rain garden at Blandy. Fee: \$6 FOSA members; \$8 nonmembers. More info, see www.virginia.edu/blandy.

Saturday, May 23, 7:30 - 10:00 a.m. Bird Counts at Merrimac Farm. Merrimac Farm Stone House Nature Center, 15020 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville (for directions see www.pwconserve.org). Birders will depart from the Stone House Nature Center and travel through a variety of habitats, including open fields, woodland edges and bottomland forest. Everyone is welcome! We hope you can join us for an exciting morning discovering more about the birds that visit and live at Merrimac Farm. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. In case of rain (not a drizzle), the count will be cancelled and rescheduled.

Questions? Contact Kim Hosen at 703.499.4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org. Open to the public and free of charge. RSVP Appreciated. 703.499.4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org.

Saturday, May 30, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.
Habitat Partners© Demonstration Garden Workshop at Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area. Merrimac Farm Stone House. Are you interested in learning how to improve habitat for wildlife in your community? This hands-on training will focus on how to design a habitat that attracts butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. During the training participants will work in teams to draw a habitat site plan to scale and develop a plant list using native species. Afterwards, everyone will have the opportunity to sign up for a planting day at Merrimac Farm to install the garden designed during the workshop, scheduled for this coming fall. For more details, see www.pwconserve.org or contact Kim Hosen at 703.499.4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org

Tuesday, June 2, Pruning Azaleas from 7-8:30pm
The time is NOW for pruning azaleas and other spring blooming shrubs! The Master Gardener Pruning Team is prepared to teach you what you need to know about these beloved landscape plants. Community Room, Chinn Park Regional Library, 13083 Chinn Park Dr, Prince William, VA. Registration requested.

Thursday, June 4 – Saturday, June 6, "Native Plants in the Landscape" conference, Millersville University, Highlighted Speakers include: Landscape Architect W. Gary Smith, University of Delaware professors Doug Tallamy and Dr. John Frett, Rick Lewandowski of the Mt. Cuba Center, and Roger Tia Koide, of Penn State University. A native plant sale is included in the conference. Topics include native plant explorers, tiarellas, new and underused natives, native vines, native lilies, native shrub ID, native small flowering trees ID, design with natives, deer control, home composting, invasive plant ID, make your own bog garden and sustainable hardscaping. See www.millersvillennativeplants.org for details on cost of conference, housing, and detailed conference brochure.

Thursday, June 4, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., "Climate Change Close to Home," Bull Run Universalist Unitarian Church, 9350 Main Street, Manassas. Prince William Conservation Alliance. Austin Kane, National Wildlife Federation, will share information about the impacts global climate change will have on wildlife and habitats in Virginia and Prince William County. Presentation followed by Q&A. See www.pwconserve.org for more details on the program.

Saturdays in the Garden. Join Master Gardeners at the Teaching Garden at St. Benedict Monastery, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, 20136. Programs run 9am-10:30am, unless noted. Registration is requested. Please call the Extension Horticulture Help Desk at 703-792-7747 to register, or if you have any questions. Schedule is below:

June 6th - Attracting Pollinators
July 11th - Building a Living Wall
August 1st - Turf Field Day
September 5th - Dividing Perennials

Saturday, June 6, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, "Building a Green, Clean Energy Future in Northern Virginia, Tools for Change Workshop." NRECA Building, 4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Va. (Ballston Metro, parking available) The Hon. L. Preston Bryant, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources; Edward Maibach, director, Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University; and Mike Tidwell, executive director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, will lead the workshop. Learn the skills needed to bring about change and move our elected officials to work for a healthy planet. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Annette Baker-Toole, Friends of Potomac River Refuges at 703-636-4115, info@foprr.com. The Virginia Native Plant Society is one of the sponsoring organizations of the workshop. RSVP and detailed directions: <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/NOVAclimate>.

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, Butterfly Tour at Merrimac Farm, Stone House Nature Center, 15020 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Free and open to the public. RSVP appreciated, 703.499.4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org. See www.pwconserve.org for more details.

Sunday, June 21, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM.
VNPS Field Trip to Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve with Hal Wiggins. (This trip was rescheduled because of weather.) Hal Wiggins will lead a VNPS trip to the new Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve. Find information about the preserve at www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/natural_area_preserves/crowsnest.shtml.

Participants will meet at the Fredericksburg headquarters of a river outfitter. From there, we will travel to Potomac Creek for a tidal/flatwater paddle to Crow's Nest. We will walk part of the preserve.

The trip will be an all day adventure. We will meet at 9:30 am in Fredericksburg and return there at about 5 pm. Hal Wiggins is a member of VNPS, long time advocate for Crow's Nest and author of *Virginia Native Plants* and *A Field Guide to Crow's Nest*.

The trip cost is \$25, which covers canoes, transport and a donation. Limit 18 people. Rain or shine, except for severe weather.

Reservations are necessary due to the canoe rental and must be made by June 15. If you must cancel, we will try to arrange to transfer your spot if we have a wait list. Please reserve by sending your check to VNPS Field Trips, 400 Blandy Farm Lane #2, Boyce, VA 22620. Note that the office is now available to take credit card payments by phone.

September 25-27, VNPS Annual Meeting, co-hosted by the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society and the recently formed New River Chapter. Where: Salem Civic Center. Opening speaker on Friday night is **Peter Heus**, owner of Enchanters Garden in Hinton, West Virginia, who will talk about native plant propagation. Many field trips are planned, including a look at roadside ditches and a newly designated natural area in the Jefferson National Forest. A silent auction will be held on the evening of September 26 to benefit the **Flora of Virginia Project**, followed by a banquet and annual meeting. Keynote speaker for the banquet is **Doug Tallamy**, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. A block of 40 rooms at LaQuinta Inn in Salem are reserved for the meeting. Please see www.vnps.org for more information.

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P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia, 20108-0083



exp. 10/09
Nancy Arrington
8388 Briarmont Lane
Manassas, VA 20112-2755

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 18, Bethel Lutheran Church, 7:30 pm
"Bluebirds and Bluebells and Merrimac Farm," with Kim Hosen