



Wild News

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Prince William Wildflower Society
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2023-03

May - June 2023

Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 7:30 pm
on ZOOM; social at 7 pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvce-vqDlpEtxe9ByIXk_BF7RbhbctOMd#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567)

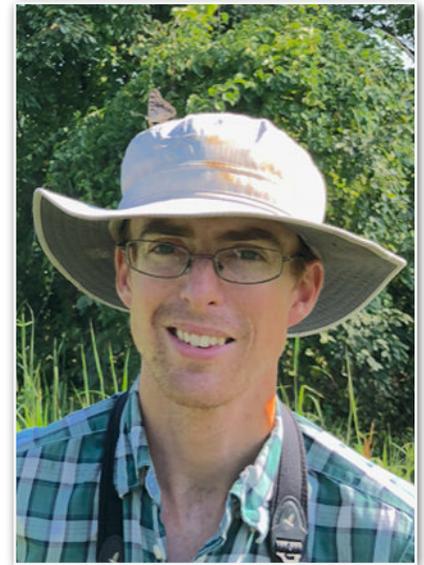
Bert Harris, Executive Director of Clifton Institute in Warrenton, Va. will present a program on "Native Seed Collection for Meadows and Gardens"

Bert Harris oversees a program of research on grassland restoration, declining native species, and conservation on private lands. He is a passionate land manager and he works with his team to restore native plant and animal communities on the Clifton Institute's 900-acre property.

After attaining his B.S. in Ecology and Biodiversity at Sewanee: The University of the South, Bert completed a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Adelaide, Australia. He then went on to do a postdoctoral fellowship on the effects of the pet trade on Indonesian birds at Princeton University. Bert is an adjunct

professor in the Department of Environmental Science at American University and in the Environmental Science and Policy Department at George Mason University.

Bert's interest in nature began during his childhood in north Alabama where he became fascinated by birds. During his studies at the University of the South, he started a natural history club to get other students interested in the plants and animals that were on the campus, and this led him to the idea that he wanted to pursue environmental education.



The Clifton Institute



Photo: Bert Harris leading a walk at Deep Cut, Manassas Battlefields

President's Message



In April Prince William County lost an icon for local conservation, Kim Hosen, the founder of the Prince William Conservation Alliance. She succumbed to cancer and our area is much diminished. I first met Kim in the 1990s when she ran an after-school program called Nature's Wonder World. She often used the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge as her classroom. With two young sons of her own, she was gifted at inspiring children with a sense of awe in nature. From butterflies to frogs to plants and birds, Kim was a true naturalist. She had majored in business in college and worked as a buyer for a time, but she found her true calling in nature. She took USDA courses to enhance her knowledge of the natural world. She served as education chair on the PWWS board for a couple of terms and offered some classes for our members. She also was the driving force behind the creation of the Merrimac Farm chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists.

Kim worked for the Piedmont Environmental Council for a while when it expanded its territory into Prince William County for a few years. Once PEC pulled back, Kim founded the Prince William Conservation Alliance and secured financial support. PWCA was primarily involved in watershed issues. A watchdog on development in the county, Kim was appointed to the Planning Commission. She immersed herself in all the details of land use planning and development and became a much sought-after expert. The news media nearly always included a quote from Kim on any local conservation or development issue.

Kim's signature achievement, if there is just *one*, was the conservation of Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area in Nokesville. The McDowell Family had wanted this area to be conserved but was unable to gift it outright. Through Kim's tenacity, she secured one of the first public-private partnerships for a conservation project and saved this entire 301-acre tract. Despite malignment by some politicians and others, she persevered and gained the support of Marine Corps Base Quantico and the Virginia Department of Wildlife

Resources (formerly Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) for this achievement. PWCA annually sponsors a Bluebell Festival in April at Merrimac, maintains a wildlife garden behind the Stone House, and holds various nature activities there throughout the year. Because of its significant stands of Virginia Bluebells, Merrimac Farm is a designated Registry Site for the VNPS.

Kim was resolute in her support for Prince William County's Rural Crescent that was designated for only low-density development. She strove to protect the unique beauty of Prince William County that ranged from the Bull Run Mountains in the north to the Coastal Plain on the Potomac River in the south. She was proud that Prince William County had two large national parks in its midst, Manassas National Battlefield Park and Prince William Forest Park and worked tirelessly to protect them from encroaching development, such as data centers. I, for one, will greatly miss Kim's environmental leadership. Let us be inspired by her legacy and continue to work to protect the natural resources of our county.

Nancy



**Prince William
Wildflower Society
Membership Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, March 2, 2023
7:30 p.m.**

President Nancy Vehrs welcomed everyone to our first membership meeting **in person** in three years. Announcements of upcoming events included the following: the 11th Annual Author Event in person on March 5, which will feature Ruth Rogers Clausen, author of *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast*; the Bluebell Festival Saturday, April 8 at Merrimac Farm in Nokesville, and the annual PWWS Plant Sale at Bethel Lutheran Church on

Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Nancy Arrington is the Plant Sale Chair, and she reminded members to please start potting plants for the sale.

Nancy V. introduced the speaker, Tom McCoy. His talk was entitled *Orchid Fever: Orchids and Their Fungal Relationships*. Tom's interest is in fungi, and he has given numerous presentations on them. That led to his current obsession with orchids, as the orchids would not live without fungi.

We were treated to beautiful photos of orchids while Tom explained their connection. The connection between the orchids and fungi is complicated.

For orchids, their complex symbiotic relationship is with certain fungi called mycorrhizae. Luckily for the orchid and the fungi, the symbiosis they share is a sweet one, mostly mutual. Orchid mycorrhiza are essential to the symbiotic process wherein juvenile orchids rely on special fungal symbionts to supply them with carbohydrates and, in exchange, the fungi receive moisture and access to organic matter.

Tom McCoy was an excellent presenter, and the lovely pictures of orchids were enjoyed. Makes one grateful for fungi!

Karen Waltman,
Secretary



Below, Kim Hosen, working in her beloved Merrimack Farm garden, and a view of the Bluebells she loved there.



The 13th Annual Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area, Nokesville,

was held on Saturday, April 8, and many enthusiasts came to visit the colorful and informative exhibits; to sample, purchase or take home the delicious baked goods; and of course, to participate in the naturalist-led walks along the recently restored trails to see the Bluebells, then almost at peak. The weather was chilly and we didn't get much sun, but there was a good deal of excitement generated by the occasion. We greatly appreciated the help of all our volunteers who worked at our PWWS tent — we couldn't do it without them. We sold out of our Bluebell plants — there were waiting customers even before the start of the festival. All in all, this year's festival was a well-attended success.



PWWS's Annual Native Plant Sale Will be Held on May 13!!!

This year's plant sale will be held on our customary Saturday before Mother's Day, May 13, on the grounds of Bethel Lutheran Church, 10 am to noon. By now our "old timers" know the drill – get your plants potted early and pot lots of them, especially shade and pollinator plants. I'll be sending emails out to you as we get closer to the sale date. I hope we will have some "first timers" participating this year by supplying plants or helping on sale day. If so, send me your email address, and I'll add you to the list.

narrington1@verizon.net

The plugs we sold at very reasonable prices at last year's sale were a big hit, so we're offering the following at this year's sale:

Northern Maidenhair Fern, *Adiantum pedatum*
 Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*
 Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
 White Turtlehead, *Chelone glabra*
 Sneezeweed, *Helenium autumnale*
 Swamp Rose-mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos*
 Spotted Beebalm, *Monarda punctata*
 Clustered Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum muticum*
 New England Aster, *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*

Nancy Arrington, Plant Sale Chairman

The rain-soaked Crew at last year's plant sale. This year we have put in an order for sunshine!



Violets: Native Plant Profile

Please visit "Botanizing with Marion" to read my updated 1993 article on Violets with additional information, images, and references under the category of Native Plant Profiles. Another article on the changes in taxonomy of Violet species found in our Northern Virginia region will be posted under the Botany and Taxonomy category in early May.

https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/dlm_uploads/2022/11/Wild-News-1993-March-April.pdf

Marion Lobstein, Botany Chair



UPCOMING EVENTS & WALKS

PLEASE NOTE:

For events not scheduled at the time this issue went to press, please continue to visit the PWWS web page: vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/

MAY

Wednesday, May 3, 10 am to 12 pm. Hike with a Naturalist at Leopold's Preserve, 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run, Va.

Wednesday, May 3, 10 am to 1 pm, Potowmack Chapter's monthly Native Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Va.

Thursday, May 4, at 7:30 pm, on Zoom, Prince William Wildflower Society Chapter Meeting. Bert Harris will present "Native Seed Collection for Meadows and Gardens."

Saturday, May 13, Prince William Wildflower Society will hold our Annual Native Plant Sale, 10 am to 12 pm. Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia <https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/events/prince-william-wildflower-society-annual-native-plant-sale/> For more information and to volunteer to help, please contact Plant Sale Chair Nancy Arrington at narrington1@verizon.net.



Saturday, May 20, 11 am to 2 pm, Clifton Institute will be holding a Spring Native Plant Sale, 6712 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, Va.

Saturday, May 20th from 2 pm to 4 pm. "A Dam Worthy Challenge". Admission is free. Alison Zak, founder, and director of the Human-Beaver Coexistence Fund will talk a little bit about beaver behavior and ecology, and a lot about how and why we can coexist with beavers despite the problem they may cause. The speaker series will be held at the Mountain House located at 17405 Beverley Mill Drive Broad Run, VA Here is a link:

https://www.brmconservancy.org/service-page/adam-worthy-challenge?category=5ee05d9d-51b2-48f7-b74e-dd23d567dc40&referral=service_list_widget

Sunday, May 28 am, Bird and Nature Walk at Merrimac Farm, last Sunday of every month.

Join us! We will look for birds as we travel through the uplands to the edge of the floodplain, covering a variety of habitats, including open fields and woodland edges. Everyone is welcome. We meet at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and camera. Info and RSVP, (703) 499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org You can view a bird list here: <http://www.pwconserve.org/wildlife/birds/lists/merrimacfarm.htm>

JUNE

Wednesday, June 7, 10 am to 1 pm, Potowmack Chapter Native Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Va.

Saturday, June 10, Freshwater Ecology, a guided walk led by a professional naturalist, Leopold's Preserve, 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run, Va. Register: <https://www.leopoldspreserve.com/events-1/freshwater-ecology>

3rd Annual
MANASSAS Bee FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 24th, 2023 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

LIBERIA HOUSE AND GROUNDS
8601 PORTNER AVENUE MANASSAS

BEE CITY USA
AN INITIATIVE OF THE VERMILION SOCIETY

Spring Wildflower Walk at Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest, a Retrospective

Our PWWS early-spring walk was held on March 22, and a group of 15 of us went in search of wildflowers. The walk was led by our president, Nancy Vehrs, with the assistance of knowledgeable participants, Janis Stone and Claudia Thompson-Deahl. We had good weather for the walk. Those of us who visit each year to see the Bloodroot and Hepatica with their distinctly-shaped leaves were not disappointed! We had never seen such a profusion of Hepatica flowers, and they were stunning! These delicate and beautiful ephemeral blooming plants were in their glory.

Spicebush was in bloom, as were Rue-anemone, Cutleaf Toothworts and Spring Beauties. We found Pennywort pushing up in the leaves, and Puttyroot and Cranefly Orchid leaves. Bluebells were found blooming down along Little Bull Run. By the end of our walk, we were well satisfied, and primed for the Spring wildflower fantasmagoria that was soon to follow. It was an excellent learning experience, too.

Brigitte Hartke, Editor



Some highlights of the April 13, 2023 Spring Wildflower Walk

Clouds of Virginia Bluebells and other spring wildflowers along the Bull Run Trail delighted Marion Lobstein and a dozen enthusiastic participants on the April 13, '23 walk.

The participants met Marion Lobstein, PWS Botany Chair, at the Stone Bridge parking lot and explored the beautiful flowers and colors of spring. This was a perfectly-sized group who were enthusiastic, asked questions, added additional observations and information, and interacted with Marion and with the other participants. Brigitte Hartke, PWS *Wild News* Editor, took many pictures and posted a number of them with delightful comments on her Facebook page. Judy Gallagher and Tom Attanaro also took many photographs.

As the group followed the trail to the Stone Bridge, the nonnative species dominated with countless Dandelions, patches of Purple Dead-nettle, Ivy-leaved Speedwells, and Yellow-rocket Mustard. A patch of leaves of *Malva neglecta* known as Cheeseweed was spotted before the bridge. On the edges of the sides of Stone Bridge were a number of nonnative European Corn Salad plants in bloom. In previous years, Marion had mistakenly identified these as the native Beaked Corn Salad.

Once the group crossed the Stone Bridge and started down the path paralleling Bull Run, native spring wildflower species dominated. The Virginia Bluebells was the most prolific species on both sides of the path. These were just at or slightly past their peak. Although Spring

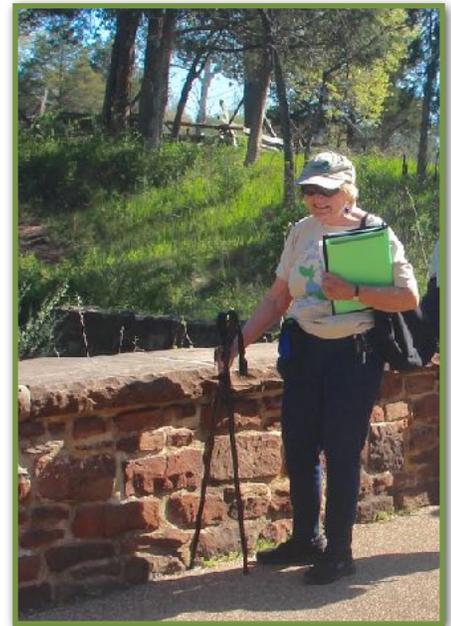
Beauty, the Common Blue Violets, and Golden Ragwort or Groundsel were in abundance. Yellow Troutlilies, Dutchman's Breeches, and Cutleaf Toothwort were also found in various stages of blooming or fruiting but were past their prime. Other natives observed were the Smooth Yellow Violet, the Cream Violet, Wild Stonecrop, the Sessile-leaved Bellwort, and the Kidney-leaved buttercup.

Marion also talked about the ephemeral nature of these plants that will soon die back after their burst of blooming, attracting pollinators, setting fruit, and having their seeds disperse. The seeds of many of these species are dispersed by ants. The underground storage structures such as rhizomes, corms, and bulbs were also highlighted. Insect pollinators were also discussed and some, such as the Spring Beauty bee, were seen by some of the participants.

The checklist of spring-blooming species is now posted in the *Botanizing with Marion* menu choice under the Checklists category. In the checklist you will have the scientific names and plant family information for these species listed in this article. Also, links to her articles in past *Wild News* issues on additional information on spring wildflower life cycle information are in the *Botanizing with Marion* site. Two of these links you might find interesting are:

https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wp-content/uploads/filebase/pwvs/pwvs_wild_news/pwvs_newsletters_2018/Wild%20News%20May-June%202018.pdf

https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wp-content/uploads/filebase/pwvs/pwvs_wild_news/pwvs_newsletters_2018/2018%20Jan-Feb%20PWVS%20Wild%20News%20Newsletter.pages.pdf



Spring Beauty Bee photo by Judy Gallagher

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia 20108-0083



Next Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023 on ZOOM

Bert Harris will present, “*Native Seed Collection for Meadows and Gardens*”

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas

From my Wildflowers Notebook:

Finding the Native Wildflowers of May and June ~ G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area, Northern Fauquier & Warren Counties, VA.

Options for finding wildflowers in Northern Virginia are many during May and June, but this destination has much to offer. In late April and early May, against the quiet eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, you can experience a great diversity of wildflower species; follow the trails to find Lady Slippers, Large Flowering Trilliums, Showy Orchis, Golden Groundsel, Phlox, Bloodroot (probably finished blooming as this is written), Dutchman’s Breeches, May Apples, Wild Pinks, Columbines, Perfoliate Bellwort, Pink Fumewort, many other spring ephemerals and flowering plants. You may come upon one of the ecologically unique seeps where rivulets trickle down over rocks, ideal environments for large stands of ferns and skunk cabbage. Stop to take in the sights as you listen to the babble of the brooks and the songs of birds. As always, tread carefully and stick to the trails. You will cross the Appalachian Trail which runs over the entire mountaintop portion of the management area. A gentle 1.2-mile loop trail winds through the forest. Address: **5050 Freezeland Road, Front Royal, VA**, a 42-mile, one-hour drive from Manassas, VA. Head out Rt. 66 and take the Linden exit South. About a mile east of Linden, pick up Hwy 638 North to the trailhead on the right. Ideally, program in the address in your Maps, Wayz or other navigation aid.

Happy hunting! Trilliums are a little ahead of schedule this year! Brigitte Hartke, Editor

