



# Wild News

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

Number 2023-07-08

July - August 2023

## Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting

### NOTE TIME & VENUE

Thursday, July 6, 7:00 pm

We will meet at the Pavilion,  
Manassas Battlefields  
Brownsville Picnic Area  
along Groveton Road.

Liz Dennison will present  
"Raptor Habitat and Ecology".

Enjoy an evening al fresco at the park and meet some rather remarkable raptors. Liz Dennison of Secret Garden Birds and Bees will present a program on the habitat needs and characteristics of her owls, kestrel and hawks.

Liz Dennison has been working with birds of prey for more than 14 years as an educator, rehabilitator, and falconer. In 2016, Liz founded Secret Garden

Birds and Bees to share her love of these amazing birds of prey and spread the word about the essential role they play in a healthy ecosystem. She is president of the organization.

Liz is a Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN), and a past member of the Board of Banshee Reeks Chapter of that organization, leader of the VMN's Barn Owl and Kestrel Nest Box Project, and a contributor to the chapter's website. She is also a member of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and has served on the LWC Programs and Field Trips Committee.

Liz is now the "Eagle Expert" working with LWC and the Dulles Greenway as a camera operator and chat moderator for the Dulles Greenway eagle nest.

[http://  
www.secretgardenbirdsandbees.com  
/home.html](http://www.secretgardenbirdsandbees.com/home.html)



*The Pavilion*



Scarlet



Little Red



Kvosier



Pippin



Hoo are Yooo?



## President's Column



Summer is here, and we are enjoying those long hours of daylight. Your PWWS board is busy planning a number of activities this summer. For

our July 6 meeting, we are taking advantage of that extra sunshine and holding our program outside. We will be at the picnic pavilion at Manassas National Battlefield Park with a crowd-pleasing program with live animals—birds of prey. Our speaker, Liz Dennison, whom I had the pleasure of hearing at a meeting of Five Hills Garden Club last year, will talk about the habitat for local raptors aided by her live ambassadors. Bring your children or grandchildren to this talk! We will be starting a half hour earlier than usual—7 p.m.

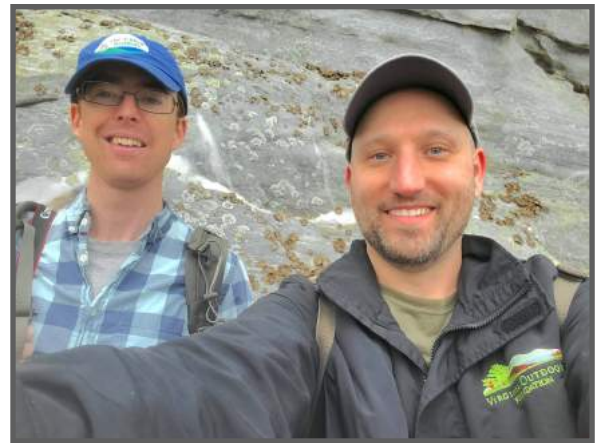
On Friday, July 14 our own naturalist Janis Stone and VNPS board member Joe Villari will lead us on a botanical walk in an area of Bull Run Mountains Natural Area that is not normally open to the public. No, we won't head to the fragile vegetation on the rocky cliffs, but we will visit another interesting area of the Preserve. Janis has been a volunteer at the Preserve for many years, and Joe is the Preserve Manager for its owner, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

On Friday, August 4, we will take advantage of the free VRE service to DC on Fridays this summer and visit the native plant gardens outside the US Botanic Garden on the Mall. Our guide will be John Saltiel, Plant Specialist at the Garden who oversees the native plantings.

For the second year in a row, Bert Harris of the Clifton Institute in Warrenton will lead our annual botanical walk at the Deep Cut Meadow in Manassas Battlefield. This year's date is Friday, August 25, and will start at 9 am in the cool of the morning. We will use Marion Lobstein's checklist that she developed over many years' worth of visits. And we will take advantage of the shade of the big oak tree and enjoy the two benches PWWS donated last year.

Though plans are not finalized yet, we are still considering a summer garden tour for a Sunday afternoon. If the stars align to make it a go, we will send out an informational email to all members and post on Facebook.

This September we will hold our annual election of officers. Our long-serving secretary Karen Waltman is prepared to let someone else take over the position. If you would like to



*Bert Harris and Joe Villari, a 'selfie' by Joe*

become more involved with the Society on a regular basis, this might be the job for you! The secretary takes minutes at our monthly meetings; our board meetings rotate with our membership meetings every other month. Let me know if you are interested, [nvehrs1@yahoo.com](mailto:nvehrs1@yahoo.com).

Looking forward to seeing many of you when we welcome our Liz and her raptors on July 6 at the Battlefield.

*Nancy*



*Bartholdi Park by Amanda Kleinman/ United States Botanic Garden*



**Prince William Wildflower  
Society  
Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
Thursday, May 4, 2023  
7:30 p.m. On Zoom**

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all. We returned to a Zoom format for this meeting.

**Announcements:**

Kim Hosen, conservationist and executive director of Prince William Conservation Alliance recently passed away from cancer, and her life will be celebrated on May 6 at Merrimac Farm, Nokesville.

The PWWS Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 13, and members were asked to bring their potted plants to Bethel Lutheran Church from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. The sale is from 10 a.m. to noon, and many volunteers are needed to put up the tents, carry potted plants from the vehicles to the lawn, write tickets and process the purchases.

Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair, asked all to check out her article about Violets on the website, "Botanizing with Marion." She has updated her original 1993 article under the category of Native Plant Profiles. Another article on the changes in taxonomy of Violet species found in our Northern Virginia region is posted under the Botany and Taxonomy category.

**Program: Native Seed Collection  
for Meadows and Gardens**

Nancy introduced Dr. Bert Harris, executive director of the Clifton Institute, which is a 900-acre conservation property near Warrenton. Bert reported about

2,000 children and 900 adults visited the Clifton Institute last year.

All the activities are research-based, and environmental education classes include the information from the research as well as hands-on assistance with the ongoing work. Some of the research projects at the Institute recently included tagging kestrels and box turtles and collecting native seeds for meadows and gardens. Students learn that we should plant Virginia natives in Virginia because natives are food for our wildlife, and natives are easier to maintain around our homes. Staff and volunteer groups participate in an ongoing project of removing invasives on the property.

A goal for the Institute is to launch a native seed industry in Virginia. They have started a pilot project to have 18 Virginia native seeds for sale.

Bert explained the process for collecting and storing native seeds, and it includes some equipment and knowing if you have 'wet seeds' or 'dry seeds.'

There is a different treatment for storing dry vs. wet seeds, and he showed us a refrigerator that was used for seed storage full of paper bags (dry seed storage).

He recommended we contact Earth Sangha for seeds, or go to the website for Prairie Moon Nursery, located in Minnesota, for information and seeds for sale. Or try collecting and storing your own seeds!

Bert let us know that property owners can call the Clifton Institute for a free service of recommendations for land management.

It is so gratifying to know that this organization is promoting the importance of native plants and providing educational classes on conservation of Virginia's native plants.

Dr. Bert Harris, thank you for the very interesting talk, and we thank you and the staff at the Clifton Institute for your work.

*Karen Waltman, Secretary*

*Bert Harris leading a botany walk at Deep Cut in 2022*



## Two Upcoming PWWS Wildflower Walks this Summer

### ***Deep Cut Battlefield Loop Trail, Manassas, Prince William County, VA.***

**Friday, August 25, at 9 am.** Prince William Wildflower Society will hold a Botanical Walk at Deep Cut, Manassas Battlefield. **Bert Harris, Ph.D.**, executive director of The Clifton Institute, will lead the walk for PWWS at Deep Cut Meadow along Featherbed Lane. The Meadow has been a VNPS Registry Site recognized in 1994 through botanical surveys led by Marion Lobstein. As old field/meadow sites, Deep Cut and the Unfinished Railroad show their greatest plant diversity summer into fall. They include many native species that would have been present in old fields of the area at the time of the Civil War. No charge, but registration required. To register, email Marion Lobstein at [mblobstein@earthlink.net](mailto:mblobstein@earthlink.net). A checklist of plant species found at Deep Cut can be downloaded from the list of checklists at <https://vnps.org/botanizing-with-marion-checklists/>.

### ***Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve Hike \* 17502 Beverley Mill Drive, Broad Run, VA***

**Friday, July 14 at 10 am**, join our own naturalists, **Janis Stone and Joe Vallari** on a botanical walk in an area of the Preserve not normally open to the public. Joe currently manages the Preserve.

Dedicated as a Natural Area Preserve in 2002, BRM Natural Area comprises a series of rocky ridges and steep valleys on Virginia's northern piedmont, and its 2486 acres are owned by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, a state-supported organization dedicated to protecting open space across the Commonwealth.

**NOTE: More information will be posted soon on the PWWS website as to meeting place and registration.**

(\*It's Loki Approved)



*Bert Harris leads a PWWS walk at Deep Cut*



*Joe Vallari*



*Janis Stone surveys a field at Deep Cut*



## 3rd Annual Manassas Bee Festival was June 24

Manassas residents and visitors from surrounding areas swarmed this year's Bee Festival in large numbers on the grounds of Liberia House, and the buzz was that it has more than doubled in size and popularity since the first fest held in 2021.

The festival was a family fun event with the goal to bring awareness of the pressing need to plant natives and save our declining pollinators! It can be fairly said that it was a huge success, offering a costume parade, mead garden, live music, vendors, food trucks, crafts, native plants, speakers, farm animals, bounce house, games, crafts, and even a spelling bee.

Prince William Wildflower Society had two tents, set up the previous day, attended by a number of our volunteers. Nancy Vehrs had lots of native plant plugs on offer for sale, and also sold books and gave out brochures, including membership forms that were scooped up by prospective new members. Education Chair Lois Montgomery, under the other tent, had many children's nature books for the children to read, after which they were permitted to select a toy from a large cart. This was a big hit last year, and we're glad she did it again.

We PWWS volunteers all had a great time working together; please join us at next year's Bee Festival. We love our volunteers, and many hands, as it is said, make light work! In addition to Nancy, Vehrs and Lois Montgomery, a big thank you to Karen Waltman, who came on her birthday, Valerie Neitzey, Brigitte Hartke, Valerie Huelsman, Tim Rook and Harry Glasgow.





## ***To Plant Sale Volunteers: A BIG THANK YOU!***

Thankfully, the rain held off until afternoon, so we had a dry sale day. According to Treasurer Valerie Gaffney, total income from plant sales was \$4228, just a little higher than last year. Plugs, especially the Maidenhair Fern, were big sellers, and, as usual, we ran out of ferns and some choice shade plants early.

Our wonderful group of volunteers again made this year's sale a huge success. Thanks to all who supplied plants, potted plants from other members' gardens, and/or worked on sale day: Joyce Andrew, Janice Beaverson, Marie Davis, Jeanne Endrikat, Valerie Gaffney, Linda and Mike George, Brigitte Hartke, Deanna High, Sandy Jeter, Janine Lawton, Diane Liga, Janet Martinet, Brian McDougal, Lois Montgomery, Valerie & Shane Neitzey, Mary Quigley, Carol Thompson, Nancy Vehrs & Harry Glasgow, and Karen Waltman.

Keep in mind that we're looking for a new venue for the sale, ideally one with indoor or covered space. Please let me or another board member know about any ideas or suggestions you have for improving the sale for next year.

*Nancy  
Arrington,  
Plant Sale  
Chairman*



We Continue to Add Updates on the  
"Botanizing with Marion" website

<https://vnps.org/botanizing-with-marion/>

### *Native Plant Profiles*

Native Plant Profile: Violets - updated 1993 article on Violets with additional information, images, and references

### *Botany and Taxonomy:*

Taxonomy of the Violaceae (Violet Family)

### *Checklists:*

Summer and Fall Checklists of Northern Virginia: A Checklist

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Virginia: A Checklist

Deep Cut (MNBP) Late Summer – Early Fall Checklist

**To manage your VNPS Membership online go to  
<https://vnps.org/myaccount>**

Enter your VNPS member username. This is usually your email address. If you don't know or have forgotten your password, click on **"Forgot Password?"** Once logged in, you can manage your account and preferences by clicking on **"What would you like to do?"** in the upper right-hand corner. Select **"Update My Profile Information."** To request a paper newsletter, at the bottom of your Profile Information, set **"Electronic Distribution"** to **"No."** Update any other profile information, then click **"Submit."**

## **The Guide to Native Plants for Northern Virginia**

This Plant NOVA Natives guide, now in its fourth Edition, will help you choose native plants for your landscape. You can get a copy in one of these ways:

- Order a copy here: <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/buy-the-native-plant-guide-book>
- [Download](#) the guide for free
- Or use the online [plant search app](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS &amp; WALKS

## JULY

## 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/](http://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/)

**Look for information arriving on the website and in your mailbox about an upcoming PWWS-sponsored summer garden tour, still in the planning stages.**

While PWWS is offering two naturalist-led walks this summer, it is a fine thing to strike out on your own, too, with local and visiting family member and friends.

There are many hiking opportunities at these local destinations and parks in Prince William County and this website offers a list of some of the best: <https://www.visitpwc.com/attractions/park-adventure-and-sports/local-and-state-parks/>.



From Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park to Conway Robinson State Forest; Dove's Landing along the Occoquan River to Neabsko Creek in Woodbridge and its long boardwalk affording the visitor a beautiful big-sky view in all directions. Try Silver Lake Regional Park or Leopold's Preserve, both in Haymarket.

You will find many green and cool forests, flower-filled meadows and the water birds' delight, wetlands, where you can enjoy whatever is in bloom in a variety of habitats. Did I mention the Manassas Battlefields, and Prince William Forest Park? There are so many places to discover and explore!

**Saturday, July 8, 5 - 7 pm, "Things That Fly"**

presented by Bull Run Mountain Conservancy, Leopold's Preserve, free to the public. 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run, VA Phone: 571-358-2098

**Friday, July 14, 10 am, Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve, 17502 Beverley Mill Drive, Broad Run, VA.** Join our own naturalists, **Janis Stone and Joe Vallari** on a botanical walk in an area of the Preserve not normally open to the public. Joe currently manages the Preserve.

***This year's PWWS Summer Garden Tour will be held on Sunday afternoon, on July 23. Watch for an email from Nancy Vehrs as well as on our FaceBook page.***

**Sunday, July 30 and August 27, 8 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, [alliance@pwconserve.org](mailto:alliance@pwconserve.org)

You can view a bird list here: <http://www.pwconserve.org/wildlife/birds/lists/merrimacfarm.htm>

## AUGUST

**Friday, August 4, Field trip to the Botanical Gardens on the Mall.** We will take advantage of the free VRE train rides on Fridays during the summer. John Saltiel, Plant Specialist at the Garden who oversees the native plantings, will be our guide.

**Friday, August 25, at 9 am. Prince William Wildflower Society will hold a botanical walk at Deep Cut, Manassas Battlefield led by naturalist Bert Harris of the Clifton Institute.** The parking lot is on the north side of Lee Highway, about one mile down Featherbed Lane and on the left.

# Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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



**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 6, 7 pm - Note earlier time and venue**  
**Liz Dennison will present a program, "Raptor Habitat and Ecology"**  
**Brownsville Picnic Pavilion, Manassas Battlefields, Groveton Road, VA**

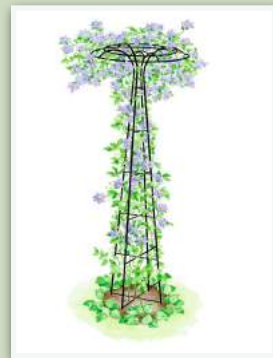
From the Help Desk . . .



## Support Your Native Plants

You've brought them home and planted them in the garden, and they are growing well. Then, after a brief and sudden summer storm comes through, you go outside to find many of them leaning over or bending to the ground, victims of the winds.

We know that many of our most beautiful natives are tall and could use support. Here are a few visual ideas to keep your native plants looking their best all summer and into the fall. It's advisable to provide it now before they start leaning.



In winter those seed heads on your upright plants will look beautiful seen against the winter sky. They provide some of the best photographic subjects at that time of year.

