

President's Message ~ a Recap of a Busy PWWS Year



Despite a little rain, how satisfying it was to hold our annual meeting outdoors in September in the garden of

PWWS Vice President **Val Neitzey**. For years, PWWS held its annual meeting outdoors with a potluck picnic on a weekend day. That fell out of favor with our ever-busy lives even before the pandemic struck. This time our hospitality crew provided refreshments, we held our business meeting and elections, and Val led the group on a tour of her expansive native plant gardens. She even provided a golf cart for those with mobility challenges. For the record, as reflected in the minutes, we reelected Val as VP, Valerie Kenyon Gaffney as treasurer, and me as president, and elected newcomer Janine Lawton as secretary. Congratulations to my fellow officers.

Our 40th anniversary year began with our traditional membership slideshow on January 5. **Judy Gallagher, Marion Lobstein, Janis Stone**, and I all shared photos of native plants far and near.

In February we participated in the ever-growing 5th annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium. This time it was presented as a hybrid event with in-person facilities at the Manassas campus of George Mason University and an online Zoom. Humane Gardener **Nancy Lawson** was the keynote speaker, and PWWS sold out copies of her book *Wildscapes*.

In March we met in person at Bethel Lutheran Church where **Tom McCoy** presented "Orchid Fever: Orchids and Their Fungal Relationships."

Our 11th Author Event was held at the Manassas Park Community Center on March 5 and featured **Ruth Rogers Clausen**, author of *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast* published in 2021. Unfortunately, attendance was disappointing.

On March 22 we held a very successful mid-week walk at Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest in Gainesville in search of very early spring wildflowers. We were rewarded with good attendance and the best showing of Round-lobed Hepatica I had ever seen there.

Peak bloom time for Virginia Bluebells is in early April, and PWWS celebrated by participating in the Prince William Conservation Alliance's annual Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm on April 8. We sold Bluebells and Plant NOVA Natives guides, staffed an educational table with displays and brochures, and guided some of the Bluebell tours.

Marion Lobstein led her traditional early spring walk at the Battlefield's Stone Bridge on April 13. Bert Harris, executive director of the Warrenton area's Clifton Institute, presented "Native Seed Collection for Meadows and Gardens" for our May 4 meeting.

May 13 marked our successful annual native plant sale under the leadership of PWWS founder **Nancy Arrington**. Thankfully, the weather cooperated better than the washout in 2022. We are still seeking a convenient location that has a large pavilion or barn for future sales. June 24 brought us to the annual Manassas Bee Festival where we sold a few plants and NOVA Natives guides and **Lois Montgomery** led our educational component at this expanding event.



On July 6 we held our bi-monthly meeting outdoors in the Manassas Battlefield’s picnic pavilion and enjoyed meeting the raptor ambassadors from Secret Garden Birds and Bees and learning about their habitat requirements. What a wonderful and well-received program.

Janis Stone and **Joe Villari** led a walk through a private area at the Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve on July 14.

Though we did not hold a spring garden tour this year, we offered a summer native plant tour on Sunday afternoon, July 23, featuring the large gardens of **Cheryl Hancock** and **Adrian Willing**, respectively. In early August a few of us took advantage of the free VRE trains to DC to enjoy a tour of the native plant garden at the US Botanic Garden near the Capitol led by horticulturalist John Saltiel.

On August 25, **Marion Lobstein** met us in the parking lot, and **Bert Harris** led us on our annual walk at Deep Cut Meadow in the Manassas Battlefield, a VNPS Registry Site for its botanical diversity.

With our annual meeting in early September and a weather-cancellation for an environmental festival at Leopold’s Preserve in late September, we have now come full circle. Besides our chapter’s events, several of us on the board have kept abreast of local issues such as data centers and sustainability plans. We have

also performed other outreach activities such as presentations to numerous garden clubs and representation with other conservation groups.

Marion Lobstein expanded her “Botanizing with Marion” feature on the PWWS web page within the VNPS website, and I commend you to review it.

PWWS had a good showing at the VNPS annual meeting in Gloucester the weekend of October 6-8 where 10 of 12 chapters were represented among the 60 attendees. Brigitte Hartke, Peggy & Charles Martin, Martha Slover, Janine Lawton, and Harry & I all represented PWWS at this event on Virginia’s Coastal Plain.

In closing, I thank our faithful longtime secretary **Karen Waltman** for her many years of service. Years ago, she worked with former president Charles Smith at Eleanor Lawrence Park near her Centreville home, and he recommended her membership. She quickly became a valuable volunteer and rose to the role of secretary. I am pleased to report that she is willing to remain on our board of directors in the role of Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you, Karen!

~ Nancy

The year in pictures, page 2-3



Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting Minutes Sunday, September 10, 2023



President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. Board directors in attendance were recognized: Valerie Neitzey, Vice-President; Valerie Kenyon Gaffney, Treasurer; Nancy Arrington, Plant Sale Chair; Marion Lobstein, Botany Chair; Deanna High, Member-at-Large. Twenty-five members and guests were in attendance.

Appreciation was expressed to Val Neitzey for hosting the meeting at her home, and to Carol Thompson, Beverly Houston, June Najjum and Marion Lobstein for providing refreshments.

Nancy distributed copies of the proposed 2023-2024 budget which was unanimously approved.

Marion Lobstein presented the slate of officers for term of office November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024:

President, Nancy Vehrs
Vice President, Val Neitzey
Secretary: Janine Lawton
Treasurer: Valerie Kenyon Gaffney

As there were no nominations from the floor, following a motion to approve by Janet Wheatcraft and second by Carol Thompson, the slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Nancy recognized Karen Waltman for her longtime service as Secretary of PWWS. Nancy advised that a recap of the past year will be printed in the next issue of *Wild News*.

Announcements by Nancy:

Registration is now open for the VNPS Annual Meeting, October 6-8 in the Gloucester/Yorktown area.

Volunteers are needed for the following events:

Fall Festival at Leopold's Preserve, September 23, 11 am - 3 pm. June Najjum volunteered.

Manassas Latino Festival, September 30 to assist with the Plant NOVA Natives table.

Other Announcements:

Marion invited members to visit the 'Botanizing with Marion' page on the PWWS website, which includes "among other useful information" plant checklists and native plant profiles.

Adrian Willing announced he had a selection of native plants for sale a half off (\$5.00) in his car for anyone interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Attendees were then invited to take a guided tour of Val's gardens.

~ Valerie Kenyan Gaffney submitting for Karen Waltman

(photo of Valerie by Carol Thompson above; pictured right, Val Neitzey and the September meeting in her pavilion)

WELCOME!

Prince William Wildflower Society would like to extend a warm welcome the following new members:

Karen and Carl Baner, Woodbridge
Cheryl Hancock, Manassas
Lucia Morey, Fredericksburg
June Najjum, Gainesville (returning member after having moved to Smith Mountain Lake)
Elena Ortiz, Lake Ridge



PWWS History: “The Early Years” by Judy Gallagher

Judy’s childhood interest in insects was re-awakened after a Master Naturalist insect class in 2010. She has been taking macro pictures of insects and spiders since then, and loves how small, dull-looking insects blossom into colorful interesting creatures when they are enlarged. Her pictures have been used in museum exhibits on three continents and in a number of books. She is a charter member of the Prince William Wildflower Society, and is particularly interested in how insects and plants interact, and in a recent program, “Insects and the Milkweed Community,” Judy talked about insects and their roles in one ecological community, the Milkweed Community.

“In 1982, there was an article in the Potomac News about a Regional Flora class to be offered at Northern Virginia Community College. That sounded intriguing, and I signed up for it. And that’s how I met Marion Lobstein, the class professor. She soon infected me with her enthusiasm for spring wildflowers and botany in general, and I liked the class so much that I took it again the following year.”

“The Virginia Native Plant Society was formed in 1982, and Marion recruited her class to help form a local chapter, the Prince William Wildflower Society. A couple of my classmates played major roles, including Nancy Arrington and Nicky Staunton. The programs and newsletters were interesting and informative, and the chapter had periodic field trips. This reinforced the knowledge that we gained in the Regional Flora class, and some people from that time

are still friends. We always had wonderful home-made snacks at meetings, a practice that has endured over time.”

“Prince William County was developing fast in that era, and PWWS members would get together and dig up wildflowers at sites that were to be developed, transplanting the flowers to other areas. It was exciting to be part of the chapter then, and I’m glad I’m still part of it today. And I’m really proud of Marion, who was an inspiration to us all.”



Editor’s Note: If you have not visited Judy Gallagher’s extensive photography collection on Flickr, you are in for a treat! This is it: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/52450054@N04/>

PWWS

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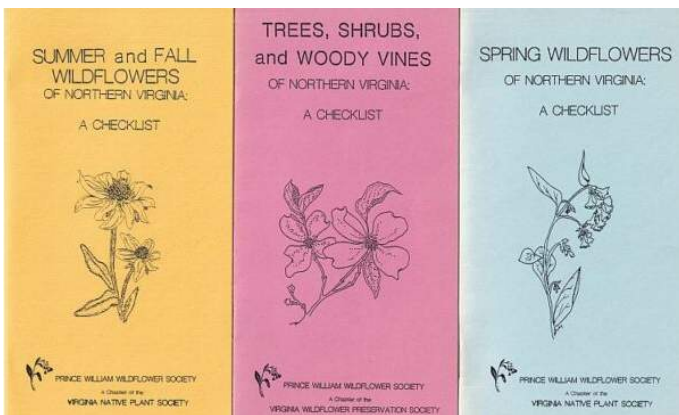
Publicity, Registry & Webmaster:
Vacant

Updates to Check Out

“Botanizing with Marion”

By Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany
Chair

Checklists



Please visit <https://vnps.org/botanizing-with-marion-checklists/> to view background on developing the three checklists for “Spring Wildflowers of Northern Virginia”, “Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Virginia”, and “Summer and Fall Wildflowers of Northern Virginia”, developed by Marion in the 1980s and originally published as booklets. These are now reformatted and edited by Linda Wilcox. Thanks to Marie Davis for the typing and editing she did to make the original checklist booklets possible. The taxonomy in these checklists was the taxonomy used in the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora*

which predated the Flora of Virginia project. You can use your Flora of Virginia App to cross-reference the scientific names. Other checklists have been added as well and more will be added in the future.

Violets

Also, please visit <https://vnps.org/botanizing-with-marion/> to learn more about our local Violet Family species in Northern Virginia:

https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/dlm_uploads/2023/05/Native-Plant-Profile-Violets-Marion-Lobstein-5-8-2023-with-large-photos.pdf

Our native Violets may bloom again in the fall. I have had my Common Blue Violets (*Violet sororia*) still forming secret (cleistogamous) flowers. The showy (chasmogamous) flowers may also form this time of year. The three-parted fruit capsules were also present in some of these Violets.

An article on the taxonomy of the Violet Family is now posted in the Botany and Taxonomy category of Botanizing with Marion. Read about the role of John Clayton, the colonial Virginia botanist and coauthor of the *Flora Virginica*, and the naming of our native Violets and more about the taxonomic history and changes of names of our native members of the Violet Family.



Common Blue Violet
Showy Flower (Spring '23)



Violet Plant with Secret Flower and Closeup



Images of Common Blue Violets taken 10-18-23



Violet Plant with Fruits and Closeup



Upcoming Events & Walks

November

Wednesday, November 1, 11:30 am to 1 pm. A free, online event. Join Blue Ridge PRISM via Zoom for our Fall Meeting. We will welcome John Scrivani, the President of the Virginia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation. Regarding restoration of the American chestnut, Dr. Scrivani will discuss the changes that native Chestnuts have been facing, including pathogens, plant competitors and invasive species. Those who register will receive access to the recording.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/721828056147?aff=oddtcreator>

Sunday, November 5, 9 am to 1 pm, 17669 Deweys Run Lane, Dumfries, VA 22026. An Earth Sangha native planting event. Help restore native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to Dewey's Creek. This planting is a part of our Habitat Refuge program. We'll provide tools and gloves. Please dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring your own water.

Click here to register: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044DAEAB28ABFE3-wild#/>

Contact: If you have any questions about this event or day of weather concerns, contact Matt at mfisher@earthsangha.org or call 580 583-8065.

Wednesday, November 8, 8 to 10 am. The Clifton Institute will sponsor a free bird walk, 6712 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, VA. **RSVP here:** <https://cliftoninstitute.org/event/bird-walk-47/#rsvp-now>

Thursday, November 9, 7 to 8 pm. Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, to be held virtually. Members - \$10, non-members \$15. "The Cost of Plant Blindness" with Sue Burke, author of the book, *Semiosis*. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-costs-of-plant-blindness-with-author-sue-burke-tickets-597817908457?aff=oddtcreator>

Saturday, November 18, 1 to 3 pm, Audubon-sponsored Occoquan Tree Identification Walk with Jim McGlone. Free. Occoquan Bay NWR, 14050 Dawson Beach Road Woodbridge. If you have any questions about this event or day of weather concerns, contact Michaelanne at mmakuch@earthsangha.org or call 703.298.8759. Sign up through their SignUp Genius link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044DAEAB28ABFE3-wild>

Sunday, November 19, Immersion into Nature Walk at Voorhees Nature Preserve. This free walk is about 1 1/2 hours' drive from Manassas. Sponsored by the Nature

Conservancy, the hike will be led by volunteer naturalist, Jeff Wright. Jeff is president of the Old Growth Forest Network and president of the Friends of Dragon Run.

Sunday, November 16, 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. 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>

December

Saturday, December 9, 10 to 12 pm, Leopold's Preserve. Hike with a naturalist. The topic will be "Winter Survival". 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run, VA. To RSVP:

<https://www.leopoldspreserve.com/calendar>

Winter Solstice Walk: Look for upcoming Potowmack Chapter announcements about their Winter Solstice Walk, yet to be announced, on the Events page of their website: <https://vnps.org/potowmack/events/>

Save the Date!!

The 6th Annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium will be held on Saturday, February 10, at the Manassas Campus of George Mason University.
More information to follow.



Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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



**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 2, 2023 on Zoom
John Magee will present his program, "Let's Talk About This."**



VNPS members hearts were a'burstin' at the 2023 Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Meeting, Gloucester, Virginia, in October. Here, a few views ~

