



A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

March-April 2010

(8712 Plantation Lane at the corner of Sudley Road and Plantation Lane across from Prince William Hospital.) If you need transportation to the meeting, please contact PWWS President Helen Walter at Helenwalt43@verizon.net or call (703) 330-9614

Location: Bethel Lutheran Church at 8712 Plantation Lane in Manassas. Refreshments will be served at the meeting. If you need a ride, please contact Helen Walter at (703) 330-9614 or helenwalt43@earthlink.net.



[Map: Fort Mandan, detail from Lewis and Clark Expedition map by William Clark and Meriwether Lewis, 1804–06. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C. Accessed at www.britannica.com]

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By the time we meet on March 15 there should only be a few parking lot piles left from Snowmageddon, but cleaning up the damage it did to our evergreens will go on and on. We're at the northern edge of the range of those pine trees and they weren't designed to handle so much wet snow, and the American hollies and Virginia red cedars took a beating too. I had a big pine leaning ominously over River Run Court until a crew of neighbors with chain saws dealt with it and a huge arbor vitae that fell across the front yard where I could watch all the birds using it for shelter. With their usual winter sources of seeds and berries buried under



three feet of snow, they really depended on our feeders to keep them going.

In spite of all this, the days are getting longer and the dawn chorus has started. The red shouldered hawks that used our feeder for a songbird buffet are courting and reestablishing their breeding territory. When I take Rover out to get the newspaper, we hear pileated woodpeckers drumming and the cardinals had already started calling "cheer cheer cheer" while we were still digging out. With all that snow, I

didn't think to look for skunk cabbage, but I bet it was there, melting its way to the light. We should have plenty of war stories to share from the notorious blizzard of 2010. Looking forward, master naturalist Cindy Patterson has been working on a plan for a plant save area to house native plants rescued from areas to be developed. The trick is finding a place with an accessible water source that the deer haven't found yet, and we may have found it at the Linton Hall Monastery. This is a work in progress that you'll hear more about as it evolves.

This year's garden tour should be more instructive than usual since we'll be seeing how the gardeners coped with Snowmageddon.

Helen Walter, president

[Skunk cabbage photo: John Hayden, accessed at vnps.org/woy2009]

UPDATE ON VIRGINIA FLORA: PWWS Is Now Sponsor of Three Plant Families

The Prince William Wildflower Society chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society is sponsoring an additional plant family for inclusion in the forthcoming reference work, "The Flora of Virginia." Adding to its previous sponsorship of the **Apocynaceae** (Dogbane) and the **Boraginaceae** (Borage or Forget-Me-Not) families, the PWWS board chose **Poaceae** (True Grasses) for its third sponsorship of a plant family for the book. See page 3 (below) for an example of a grassy native to Prince William County from this large plant family. —Deanna High



Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) of the Poaceae family

[Sally and Andy Wasowski, NPIN Image Gallery, www.npin.org, Image no. 24693]

Route 1/234 Parking Lot Expansion Habitat Enhancement Landscape Project for PWC Landscape Vision by Carla Thomas and Cindy Patterson

This spring, Prince William County and VDOT will begin a Virginia Native Plant Habitat Enhancement Landscape Project revitalization on the corner of Route 1 and 234.

Volunteers will be planting Virginia native plants to create a naturalistic meadow with interpretive trail, a natural forested woodland and a native ornamental site at the 234 entrance. These native plants will only need to be maintained once or twice a year, saving maintenance fees for the taxpayers, with the added bonus of absorbing storm water run off with their long root systems and at the same time, stabilizing the land to prevent soil erosion. [Continued on Page 7]

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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

Chartered January 10, 1983

Logo: *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia Bluebells)

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Publicity, VACANT
Refreshments, VACANT
Registry, VACANT

***Wild News* is published bimonthly; deadline for submissions for the May-June issue is May 1, 2010**

Monday, January 18, 2010

Prince William Wildflower Society Meeting

President Helen Walter called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm and thanked those who had furnished refreshments. She asked for volunteers to bring snacks at future meetings, and asked for a volunteer to head the refreshment committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marion Lobstein reported that the modern *Flora of Virginia* is moving along. The last one was published in 1762, and the new one is due to be published in 2012. [The winter Virginia Native Plant Society's newsletter *Bulletin* has "A peek inside the pages..." of the *Flora of Virginia* on pages 4 and 5.]

Charles Smith reported on the Bristow Station Battlefield inventory and meadow management.

Harry Glasgow is conducting a bird walk at Merrimac Farm in Nokesville the last Sunday of each month from 8-10:30 am. [Free and reservations are not necessary; for directions go to alliance@pwconserve.org, or call 703-499-4954. A highlight of the Feb. 28 bird walk was a red-headed woodpecker.]

Earnie Porta, Mayor of Occoquan, would like wildflower clubs to educate people on gardening with native plants.

Cindy Patterson announced that she had sign-up sheets for those interested in helping with a VDOT project to plant native plants.

For the March meeting, Marion Lobstein will show pictures of her trip to Canada and Yellowstone. She will tie in some of the plants found on the famous trip made by Lewis and Clark in the early 1800s.

SLIDESHOW--PWWS members showed slides of recent travels and from around their homes.

Jeanne Endrikat--The end of July 2009, Jeanne and her family stayed at Copper Mountain Resort in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and she showed beautiful flowers from that area. She visited her daughter in Portland, Oregon in the spring and in September of 2009, and Jeanne included scenes and wildflowers from nearby Mt. Hood. In contrast, pictures from a moist area with a lower elevation were from the nearby Columbia River Gorge.

Christine Sunda--A Norway travelogue from a trip the end of June 2009 included pictures of wildflowers near waterfalls, fiords, winding roads, and Briksdal Glacier. Quaint old buildings that were moved to a site near Oslo had plants growing on the roofs, and a huge farm field of buttercups was breathtaking.

Nancy Vehrs and Harry Glasgow reported on a trip to Nova Scotia in August 2009. Scenes from the Historic Gardens in Annapolis Royal and along the Cabot Trail and in Cape Breton Highlands National Park were included, so there was a lot of variety in flowers and scenery.

Deanna High--Deanna showed seasonal pictures from around her wooded home, including monarchs on milkweeds, trees in winter, plants with early leaves, and many wildflowers.

If anyone takes some nice photos of wildflowers and/or interesting scenery on a trip or from around your home, please consider showing them at next January's Member Slide Show.

In Attendance: Diane and Rick Flaherty, Glen MacDonald, Dee Brown, Sheryl Pollock, Nell Benton, Ruth Johnston, Amy Hamilton, Frances and Phil Louer, Stan and Jeanne Fowler, Jeanne Endrikat, John Pauswinski, Nancy Arrington, Gillian Quintara, Cindy Patterson, Brian McDougal, Jmy Mortensen, Nancy Vehrs, Deanna High, Marion Lobstein, Charles Smith, Harrison Glasgow, Karen Waltman.

Wear your bluebell pins to the March 15 meeting!

--Respectively submitted, Karen Waltman, PWWS secretary



Prince William Wildflower Society Spring 2010 EVENTS*

****Monday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.** "Along the Trail of Lewis and Clark: The Plants of the Corps of Discovery 200+ Years Later," with Marion Lobstein, Northern Virginia botanist and professor of biology, NOVA. Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting, Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Va. 20110

****Sunday, April 25, Noon to 5 p.m.** 24th Annual Garden Tour
Email pwws.vnps@yahoo.com or call (703) 368-2898 to receive a brochure with directions to the homes on the tour.

Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m. to Noon. 28th Annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale

Sun-loving and shade-loving native plants, great prices, lots of variety!
Bethel Lutheran Churchgrounds, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Va. 20110

****Monday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m.** "Honeybees Live," with Karen Waltman, Secretary, Prince William Wildflower Society. Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Va. 20110

****Monday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m.** "Nicky's Nature: Favorite Images of Prince William and Beyond," with Nicky Staunton, vice president of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Va. 20110

* Prince William Wildflower Society events are free and open to the public. **Refreshments served

MORE SPRING EVENTS

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

March 22, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lahr Native Plant Symposium, “Native Plants: Now,” with Bill Cullina, Linda Davis, and others.

An internationally regarded lineup of presenters will share their current native plant projects and insights from the worlds of eco-savvy design, horticulture, botany, and wildlife conservation. Within these topics, you will be able to explore pollinators, mosses, home rain gardens, nomenclature, garden design, and the newly renovated Fern Valley Native Plant Collection. Registration fee includes lunch and early access to the Native Plant Sale. Fee is \$89; registration required. See www.usna.usda.gov for details and directions.

FRIENDS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER REFUGES (Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Featherstone NWR, and Occoquan Bay NWR)

Saturday, March 13, 8:10 a.m. meet time. Bird walk with Lake Ridge Wild Bird Center

Join the Lake Ridge Wild Bird Center for monthly bird walks at the Occoquan Bay Refuge (every 2nd Saturday of every month). No experience is necessary! Be prepared for the weather conditions and to walk for an hour and a half. Meet at the store (12555 Dillingham Square) between 7:45 and 8 a.m., or in the Refuge parking lot at 8:10 a.m. See www.foprr.org for details

Saturday, April 3, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Web of Life

Come explore the Refuge and discover the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers in the ecosystem. See how life forms are interconnected and dependent on each other.

Occoquan Bay NWR, children welcome, registration requested. See www.foprr.org for details

Saturday, April 10, 8:10 a.m. Bird walk with Lake Ridge Wild Bird Center

Meet at the store (12555 Dillingham Square) between 7:45 and 8 a.m., or in the Refuge parking lot at 8:10 a.m.

Saturday, April 24, 2010 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Annual Eagle Festival

Mark your calendars for this fun, family-oriented event. Planned activities include van trips to the Little Marsh Creek impoundment with on site Ranger guided tours and bird banding demonstrations. See www.foprr.org for details

PRINCE WILLIAM CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Bird Walks at Merrimac Farm

**Sunday, March 28,
8:00 a.m. to 10:30
a.m.**

**Sunday, April 25,
8:00 a.m. to 10:30
a.m.**

We'll cover a variety of habitats, including open fields and woodland edges. Everyone is welcome. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. More info and RSVP (not required) to PWCA , (703) 499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org.

Saturday, March 13, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

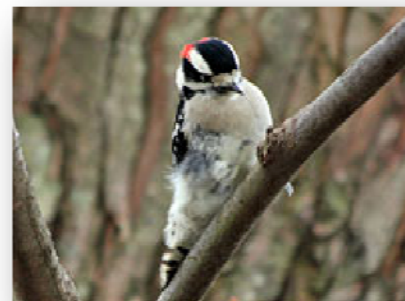
Especially for Families - Signs of Spring

Merrimac Farm Stone House Visitor Center, 15020 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Join us for a fun family afternoon at Merrimac Farm. We'll search for new buds, nests and wildlife emerging from a long winters sleep. After a discovery walk, we'll return to the Stone House and continue our exploration through arts and crafts. Workshop leaders are Linda Johnston and Kathy Madson. Suggested contribution is \$5/ea. Register early! Program is capped at 15 participants. To register, send your contact information to alliance@pwconserve.org or (703) 499-4954.

Thursday, April 1, 1st Thursday Speaker Series: Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church, 9350 Main Street, Manassas, 7:30

p.m. “Rattlesnakes, Racers, and Other Cool Snakes: Who Lives in Northern Virginia?”

with Paul Petersen, Naturalist, Prince William Forest Park.



Sunday, April 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
BLUEBELL FESTIVAL at MERRIMAC FARM. See

www.pwconserve.org
for more details on
this annual event for
the whole family.
(Bluebell and other PWCA
photos: Kim Hosen)

**Saturday, April 17,
8:00—10:30 a.m.**
**Featherstone
National Wildlife**

Refuge Tour. The
Featherstone Refuge is located at the point where
Neabsco Creek flows into the Potomac River. With
325 acres of bottomland forests and freshwater
tidal marshes, the Refuge attracts waterfowl,
wading birds and migratory songbirds. The
Featherstone Refuge is generally closed to public
uses and many people do not even know it exists.
Now is your chance to visit this fabulous natural
area along Prince William's Potomac River
shoreline. Bring binoculars and cameras. Wear
clothes suitable for the outdoors, including long
pants and sturdy shoes. Meet at the Rippon VRE
main parking lot, intersection of Rippon Blvd. and
Farm Creek Drive. For questions and to register,
email alliance@pwconserve.org or call (703) 499-4954.

Monday, April 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Especially for Kids - What's for Lunch?
(Teacher Work Day)

Merrimac Farm Stone House Visitor Center, 15020
Deepwood Lane, Nokesville
At the end of the morning, we're ready for soup
and sandwiches. But if you were a frog, you'd be
looking for flies. In addition to frogs, we'll
investigate what's on the lunch menu for wildlife
at Merrimac Farm cafe. After a discovery walk,
we'll return to the Stone House and create clay
replicas of your favorite animals' favorite lunch.
Workshop leaders are Linda Johnston and Kathy
Madson. Suggested contribution is \$5/ea. Register
early! Program is capped at 12 participants. To
register, send your contact information to
alliance@pwconserve.org or call (703) 499-4954.



**Thursday, May 6, 1st Thursday Speaker
Series: Bull Run Unitarian Universalist
Church, 9350 Main Street,
Manassas, 7:30 p.m.**
**"Managing Deer in the
Suburbs," with Charles
Smith, Natural Resource
Manager, Fairfax County
Park Authority**

**RTE 1/234 EXPANSION
PLANS (Cont. from page 3)**

The plantings will be real show
stoppers with a continuous
bloom display and spectacular
fall color. They will be extremely showy, highly
drought tolerant plants such as *Asclepias tuberosa*
(butterfly weed), *Liatris* spp. (gayfeathers),
Muhlenbergia capillaris (muhly grass), *Opuntia*
humifusa (Eastern prickly pear), *Penstemon digitalis*
(beard tongue), *Phlox subulata* (moss phlox), ,
Rudbeckia spp. (orange coneflowers), *Silene*
caroliniana (catch-fly), *Solidago* spp. (goldenrod), and
Yucca filamentosa (Adam's needle).
Woody plants in this area will be situated away
from the drainage conduits so their roots won't
invade. Selections include *Amorpha fruticosa* (false
indigo bush), *Chionanthus virginicus* (fringe tree),
Physocarpus opulifolius (common ninebark), *Rhus*
aromatica 'Gro-low' (dwarf fragrant sumac), one of
the few cultivars included), *Vaccinium pallidum*
(Blue ridge blueberry), and *V. angustifolium*
(lowbush blueberry). The sumac will be mowed
along with the perennials.

The south entrance will be a showpiece. It will
include native plants that support pollinators,
including male *Chionanthus virginicus* (fringe tree),
Ilex glabra (inkberry holly), and a few others. Tall
conifers will be positioned where the roosting
birds won't make a mess. Any food and cover
plants will not be too alluring to wildlife because it
won't be safe to congregate in that area.

The rest of the south edge will be challenging because it
will receive morning winter sun and harsh all day sun in
the summer. This area will receive native plants that
have naturally adapted to this kind of environment.

The west and north facing slopes will be replanted as a
woodland. Final native plant selections for these areas

depend heavily on knowing the existing plants, and those that were cleared. Those plants include *Nyssa sylvatica* (tupelo), *Quercus marilandica* (blackjack oak), *Pinus echinata* (shortleaf pine), *Pinus virginiana* (scrub pine), native hickories, *Viburnum acerifolium* (mapleleaf viburnum), and other woody plants typical of the area. Many of the plants have been identified in the nearby stream valley.

We will plant the retention pond at least above the 100 year flood mark, and possibly as far down as the 10 year mark. If VDOT or the county insists on keeping the lower areas planted with the fescue mix, they will have to keep it mowed. Otherwise, drought tolerant perennials will be planted to handle the seasonal inundation of storm water, such as: Joe-pye weeds, *Iris versicolor* (northern blue flag), *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass) and other adaptable grasses, *Rhexia virginica* (meadow beauty), and *Symphotrichum novi-belgii* (New York aster). For the higher perimeter, *Alnus serrulata* (smooth alder), *Amelanchier canadensis* (shadblow serviceberry), *Betula*



[Blue Flag, (*Iris versicolor*), NYPL Digital Library, (1817-20) Jacob Bigelow, *American Medical Botany*, Image ID 1107174]

nigra (river birch), *Magnolia virginiana* (sweetbay magnolia), *Morella* (f.k.a. *Myrica*) *cerifera* (Southern wax myrtle), *Rhododendron periclymenoides* (pink azalea), *R. viscosum* (swamp azalea), *Salix nigra* (black willow), and *Ulmus americana* 'Valley Forge' will be planted. Nearly all of the selected plants occur naturally in Prince William County. There are just a few exceptions, such as *Taxodium distichum* (bald cypress), which will be included because it combines strong wood, fast growth, drought tolerance, and a high roost into one nonaggressive, low maintenance tree.

If you have any questions or would like to become a volunteer during the planting this spring, please email Cindy Patterson at cindy.patterson@mac.com.

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

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 15, 7:30 pm
Marion Lobstein presents "Along the Trail of Lewis and Clark"