



WILDNEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

www.pwws.vnps.org

Number 2013-03

May-June 2013

Monday, May 20, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Prince William Wildflower Society's membership meeting will feature Judith Dreyer of "At the Garden's Gate," who will talk about "Turning Lawns into Meadows." Judith Dreyer holds an M.S. in nutrition from the University of Bridgeport and a B.S. in nursing from the University of Connecticut. She has also completed an Herbal Apprenticeship and teaches holistic nutrition and health and herbal classes. Judith is an adjunct lecturer at Western Connecticut State University. Dyer currently resides in Virginia, where she is a Virginia Master Gardener and a member of the United Plant Savers and the American Holistic Nurses Associations. For more about Judith and her programs, see her web site at www.judithdreyer.com.



In early April a group of 20 participants tromped around Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve in Stafford County on a field trip led by Mike Lott. These intrepid hikers went over hill and dale to see early spring bloomers such as the yellow flowers of spicebush, spring beauty, two kinds of toothwort, and white saxifrage. We also saw a pair of eagles, carpets of the lacy foliage of Dutchman's breeches, emerging may-apples, and putty root leaves. In mid-April a dozen of us visited Bruce Jones's private nature preserve in Rappahannock County. This former farm is a model for recreating wildlife habitat. Not too many of us have that kind of acreage, but it's amazing how much wildlife can be attracted to even a small subdivision lot with native plantings.

Please join us for this fascinating program, which is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and doorprizes awarded!

From the President:

It has been a busy spring for PWWs! We've had informative meetings and classes, fun field trips, educational exhibits, and our annual native plant sale! Let's keep this momentum going through fall.

This year's Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area in Nokesville was well attended despite the reluctance of the bluebells to fully bloom. PWWs members Charles Smith and Harry Glasgow led tours, and Tamie Boone, Carol Thompson, Deanna High, Helen Walter, Karen Waltman, and I all took turns staffing our booth. We distributed wildflower coloring books to the kids and stamped their hands with a bluebell, but it was hard to compete with the build-a-bug at the county's gypsy moth and mosquito control's adjacent booth.



Harry Glasgow and I participated in some Earth Day events. We had an information booth at the celebration for Prince William County employees and explained that our logo flower, the Virginia bluebell, is the officially designated flower for our county. A couple of days later, I had a booth at the celebration held at the Prince William campus of George Mason University. I engaged the students by discussing the Wildflower of the Year, the eastern redbud. I had sample flowers and showed the

students how the flowers resemble little hummingbirds. They were also quite surprised that the flowers are edible. None of the students had been familiar with the tree before then, a sad commentary on their connection to the natural world. Uncooperative weather somewhat reduced the usual turnout, but the hardy

souls who didn't mind a light rain were rewarded with colorful, lush gardens for this year's annual spring wildflower garden tour. Thank you, Teresa Blecksmith, Marylou Chiarito, and Carol Thompson for sharing your lovely gardens with us, and many thanks to volunteer

hostesses Joyce Andrews, Tamie Boone, Dee Brown, Tiana Camfiord, Barbara Deegan, Brenda Hallam, Helen Walter, and Janet Wheatcraft. And thank you to those of you who provided the delicious treats. Looking forward to *next* year, might it be time to showcase *your* garden? We are always seeking new gardens for the annual tour. As our gardeners can attest, it might be a lot of work, but opening your garden is a powerful motivator and you'll be proud of your accomplishment. Please contact me if you're interested.

As I write this, we are on the verge of holding our annual plant sale. Thunderstorms are predicted, but we are so hoping that they will hold off until the afternoon. We have been fortunate to have had a cool spring that has been perfect for potting our plants and acclimating them for the sale. The sale is our only fundraiser and a large number of our members contribute to and volunteer for it. The camaraderie and friendships developed through the sale



and our field trips are just another by-product of active membership with the Society.
~Nancy V

PWWS Annual Plant Sale

Held May 11, 2013

Thanks to all the following great folks who donated, dug, potted, hauled, labeled, and sorted plants, and to those who helped organize and staff the sale on Saturday. A lot of you did it all! Special "bluebell" thank yous go, as always, to Plant Sale Co-Chairs Nancy Arrington and Nancy Vehrs for coordinating a very successful fundraiser for

PWWS. Plant sale details are still trickling in, but the proceeds set a new record, with plant sales of slightly less than \$4,700—\$1,500 of which was through credit card sales—plus the sale generated eight new memberships, bringing the total up to \$4,900. Congratulations, everyone, on a terrific effort!

Joyce Andrew
Nancy Arrington
Tamie Boone
Dee Brown
Tiana Camfiord
Marie Davis
Paul Davis
Jeanne Endrikat
Diane Flaherty
Rick Flaherty
Bobbi Frye

Brenda Hallam
Amy Hamilton
Deanna High
Bill Holbrook
Jane Lehman
Bill Lehman
Frances Louer
Phil Louer
Glen Macdonald
Kathy Madsen
Brian McDougal

Gordon Olson
Brian Shermeyer
Suzy Stasulis
Linda Stoltz
Veronica Tangiri
Carol Thompson
Nancy Vehrs
Karen Waltman
Joyce Wenger
Mike Wenger
Janet Wheatcraft

Prince William Wildflower Membership Meeting Minutes, Monday, March 18, 2013

President Nancy Vehrs opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed all. She introduced guest speaker Michael Lott, who spoke on Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve—its history, physical setting, natural communities, and present and future activities and management plans. Michael is employed with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as the Northern Region



Steward/Crow's Nest Manager. Michael reported that Crow's Nest is at Exit 140, off of Highway 95 and is one of 61 preserves in Virginia.

Some of the land in the preserve was used as Native American settlements, and in the Colonial period tobacco was grown by nearby plantation owners and shipped by river on boats called crows—hence, the name Crow's Nest. The preserve is now 2,872 acres, with about 2,100

acres of mature hardwood forest and 750 acres of wetlands. A parking lot for the public has been built, and to help with public access for passive activities, hiking trails, a pier, and a canoe launch are planned.

Michael Lott is compiling a tree inventory and attempting to manage invasive plants at the preserve. A power point presentation from Gary Fleming was also shared with our group, entitled "Natural Communities at Crow's Nest." In appreciation of Michael's informative presentation, a check was sent from PWWS to the Virginia Society of Ornithology in his name.

Announcements: Nancy V. reminded all that a PWWS field trip to Crow's Nest was planned on April 4, and Michael has agreed to lead us. A sign-up sheet was available. Nancy V. also told about the PWWS April 29 Garden Tour and May 11 Plant Sale volunteer opportunities with available sign-up sheets. Nancy Arrington had potting instructions for those potting plants for the Plant Sale.

Vice-President Carol Thompson reviewed upcoming May 20 membership meeting, "Turning Your Lawn Into a Meadow."

Botany Chair Marion Lobstein is conducting 4 class sessions at Blandy on nomenclature changes found in the *Flora of Virginia*. She will condense this information and present a local program, probably in the fall.

Doorprizes: Harry Glasgow and June Najjum each received a butterfly ornament, and Tom Andrew received the book *Common Native Trees of Virginia-Tree Identification*.

Those in attendance: Janet Wheatcraft, Rose Breece, Nancy Arrington, Bill and Jane Lehman, Glen Macdonald, Helen Walter, Suzy Stasulis, Helen Rawls, June Najjum, Carol Thompson, Tamie Boone, Gordon Olson, Tom and Joyce Andrew, Marion Lobstein, Deanna and Jack High, Carl and Jerry Taylor, Jeanne Endrikat, Brian Smith, Jeanne Fowler, Harry Glasgow, Nancy Vehrs, Michael Lott (speaker) and Karen Waltman, 27 total.

--Respectively submitted, Karen Waltman, Secretary

MPES Workday Coming Up

Our workday at Manassas Park Elementary School is Saturday, May 18, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (rain date: morning of Saturday, June 1). We will be working with students,

Welcome! New PWWS Members

Dorothy Brodie, Gainesville
 Jen Cole, Manassas
 Nancy Emanuel, Manassas
 Bobbi Frye, Manassas
 Jennifer Graham, Manassas
 Cathy Lemmon, Manassas
 Lois Lower, Manassas
 Christine Sunda, Centreville
 Teresa Blecksmith, Dumfries
 Mike Lott, Fredericksburg
 Rita Romano, Manassas
 Peggy & Pat Thiele, Woodbridge

members of the Go Green Club (formerly the Garden Club) in the school's two large courtyards that are planted exclusively with native, trees, shrubs, ferns, and perennials. Tasks include plant identification, weeding, and mulching. Deanna and I will be identifying plants in the courtyard gardens so we can purchase the permanent markers that PWWS has agreed to pay for. Joyce Andrew has offered to do two presentations for the club at a later date: native plants used for food and medicine and nature journaling. We would be happy to hear from others who can speak to the club members on native plant related topics.

The school is located off Manassas Drive at 9298 Cougar Ct. I have already heard from a few PWWS members who can help on May 18, but we need more. Please let me know if you can help out, narrington1@verizon.net or (703) 408-7446 (cell).
 --Nancy Arrington

EVENTS MAY

Saturday, May 18, Manassas Park Elementary School, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Work day for PWWS. Please see detailed notice, listed above.

Saturday, May 18, Virginia Cooperative Extension Prince William Master Gardener Volunteers, Teaching Garden at St. Benedict Monastery, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, Va. 20136.

All programs are free and run from 9:00am to Noon. Registration is requested. Please call (703) 792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcv.gov.org.

--A Time to Plant! Join us for hands on lessons in our Teaching Garden Cooks' Garden. Direct seeding and transplanting seedlings will be covered.

--Give Your Garden a Facelift! Spring Garden Renovation class. Join Master Gardener Volunteers as we discuss and demonstrate renovation of our Bee, Butterfly, and Hummingbird Garden at the Teaching Garden.

--*Master Gardener Plant Sale*



Monday, May 20, Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Program will feature Judith Dreyer, who will talk to us about converting lawns to meadows and the benefits thereof. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Nancy Vehrs, president, at nvehrs1@yahoo.com

or (703) 368-2898 or Carol Thompson, vice president, at jerry.1950@comcast.net or (571) 285-3638.

Saturday, May 25, "Wildlife Walk," Bristoe Station Battlefield, 9:00 to 11:00 am. Cost: \$5 per person

Join outdoor experts Charles Smith, Harry Glasgow, and Jeannie Couch on a guided walk of the Battlefield. Learn about the beneficial wildlife especially the birds and butterflies that call this ecosystem home. Learn to identify the plants that these birds and butterflies need for food and shelter. Bring binoculars. The tour departs from the kiosk in the parking lot at Iron Brigade Unit Ave and 10th Alabama Way. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. No pets please. Registration requested (703) 792-7747 or master_gardener@pwcgov.org.

JUNE

Saturday, June 15, Virginia Cooperative Extension Prince William Master Gardener Volunteers, Teaching Garden at St. Benedict Monastery, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, Va. 20136. All programs are free and run from 9:00am to Noon. Registration is requested. Please call (703) 792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org.

--**Homegrown Herbs**. Growing, maintaining and using fragrant and delicious herbs with Master Gardeners Marilyn Spencer and Heidi Johnson.

--**Shade Savvy Plants**. The Woodland Garden is featured in this class on the challenges and joys of growing plants in the shade.

Trilliums: Now in Their Own Family

By Marion Blois Lobstein

Botany Chair, Prince William Wildflower Society
Professor Emeritus- NVCC



One of the most beautiful and easily recognizable groups of spring wildflowers is the trilliums in the Trilliaceae, formerly in the lily family (Liliaceae). In northern Virginia, the more common trillium is the sessile or toadshade trillium (*Trillium sessile*) and the rarer species is the large-flowered trillium (*T. grandiflorum*). Both of these species bloom a bit later than earliest spring wildflowers, with the sessile trillium beginning to bloom in early April (sometimes even late March) and the large-flowered trillium in late April to early May. Both species are found in rich, well-drained, deciduous woods. Sessile trillium is found in coastal plains, piedmont, and mountain geographic provinces from New York, Ohio, and Minnesota south into Georgia, Mississippi, and Arkansas, while the range of the large-flowered species is more often mountains from southeastern Canada south into the mountains of the Georgia and Arkansas. Several other species of trillium can be found from Northern Virginia and/or farther west into Virginia mountains, including purple trillium (*T. erectum*), nodding trillium (*T. cernuum*), and painted trillium (*T. undulatum*).



The genus name *Trillium* is derived from the Latin word *tres* for three, which refers to the flower parts as well as the leaves that are in groups of three. The species epithet, *sessile*, meaning "without a stalk" refers to the flowers of the sessile trillium that lack a pedicel (flower stalk) and *grandiflorum*, "large-flowered," referring to the showy, large flowers of *T. grandiflorum*. Other common names for *T. sessile* are toad or toadshade trillium, stalkless trillium, and sessile-flowered wake-robin. Another common name for *T. grandiflorum* is great white trillium. In some botanical manuals and popular wildflower guides, the trilliums are put into the separate family of the Trilliaceae and that convention is now followed in the new *Flora of Virginia*.

JULY

Monday, July 15, Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Program will feature Prince William conservation Alliance Chair Charlie Grymes, who will talk to us about local geography. Contact PWWs program chair Helen Walter at helenwalt43@verizon.net or (703) 330-9614 for more information.

Saturday, July 20, Virginia Cooperative Extension Prince William Master Gardener Volunteers, Teaching Garden at St. Benedict Monastery, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, Va. 20136. All programs are free and run from 9:00am to Noon. Registration is requested. Please call (703) 792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org.

--**Managing problems in Your Landscape** Join Master Gardener Volunteers at the Teaching Garden as they teach "lessons learned" in a few of our 25 garden beds.

--**Turf Alternatives**, Want less grass to mow? The class will include a discussion of groundcovers, clover, moss, ornamental grasses, and other plants as an alternative to planting and maintaining a lawn.

Save the Date! VNPS Annual Meeting will be held in Charlottesville September 13 -15. See vnps.org and the VNPS Bulletin for more information.

In these two trillium species, a solitary flower bud develops after the leaves emerge from the underground rhizome. Only mature plants will produce flowers. In both species there are three green sepals, discussed in more detail, six upright petals, three prominent stamens, and a three-angled pistil. In the *sessile* species average one to two inches in length, can be yellow-green. The upright petals surround the stamens and pistil. The pink petals of the large-flowered species are one to three inches long. Flowers are borne on a pedicel that is one to two inches long. The flowers in *T. grandiflorum* seem to be rather than due to an aging process, white or pink. The fragrance of the flowers ranges from musty to faintly carrion-like to are carrion flies and beetles, which reach the stamens and pistils. The large-flowered species has a more pleasant fragrance that attracts its primary pollinators.

The fruit that develops in both species is a pulpy berry that is approximately one inch long. Inside the fruit that matures by late June are 15 to 20 oblong, russet-colored seeds, one-quarter inch long, with a fleshy crest or elaiosome on the upper end of the seed. Fats in the elaiosome on the seeds attract ants that then disperse the seeds. The ants provide a concentrated energy source. It may take two or more years for the seeds to germinate and up to seven years to have a plant that will bear flowers.

The characteristic broadly oval leaves of all trilliums occur in groups of three. The leaves of sessile trillium are mottled and average from one and one-half to five inches long, while those of the large-flowered trillium are not mottled and are two and a half to six inches long. The leaves die back or senesce after the fruit matures and seeds are shed. The stem height of sessile trillium is four to eight inches tall compared to eight to eighteen inches tall in the large-flowered species. Both species have well-developed rhizomes with shallow fibrous root systems.

The medicinal and edible uses of trilliums as a group are many. The young leaves are edible raw or parboiled, however, in most areas today, trilliums ARE NOT COMMON enough to collect and eat. Medicinal uses of trillium rhizomes by American Indians and in folk medicine include inducing labor in childbirth and relieving bleeding following parturition, sore nipples, and female disorders. Trilliums also were used as an astringent to stop nosebleeds and internal hemorrhaging, as a poultice to treat sores, ulcers, insect stings, and even to treat diarrhea. Chippewa Indians washed rheumatic joints with an extract of trillium rhizomes then pricked the skin numerous times with a needle to "inject" the fluid into the area. Extracts of trillium rhizomes have purported astringent, expectorant, and even uterine stimulant properties.

The sessile trillium may be found in abundance at Great Falls Park (both Virginia and Maryland), at Riverbend Park, Balls Bluff Park, and other sites especially along the Potomac River. Large-flowered trillium is best seen from late April to early to mid-May at G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management area near Linden, Virginia. It is estimated that at this site there are at least 18 million individual plants growing in a two square-mile area. It is breath-taking to see large-flowered trillium carpeting the forest floor at this site! Even though the sessile trillium is not as showy, its delicate beauty is well worth the effort to seek out this spring. Both these species are important and beautiful members of the "guild" of early spring wildflowers that carpet our rich deciduous woods.
–Marion Lobstein

(Please see the web version of this article at pwws.vnps.org under "Botanizing with Marion" for further reading suggestions and links on changes in the Lily family).

Photo and Images

Photos: Garden tour, hippo fountain, Blecksmith garden; umbrellas in the rain, Thompson garden; frog fountain, Charito garden; group at Bruce Jones' Nature Preserve; PWWS plant sale scene; Large-flowered trillium, Thompson WMA; cicadas on *Coreopsis tripteris*; Tulip poplar; all courtesy of Deanna LaValle High. **Images:** *Trillium grandiflorum* (Michx.) Salisb., and *Trillium erectum*, both found in *Flora Londinensis* by William Curtis (1746-1799), accessed at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point web site, <http://wisplants.uwsp.edu>; *Trillium cernuum*, in *A Flora of North America* by William P.C. Barton (1823), accessed at University of Missouri Library's Special Collections and Rare Books, <http://mulibraries.missouri.edu>.



solitary flower bud from the underground rhizome produce flowers. In both species there are three green sepals, discussed in more detail, six upright petals, three prominent stamens, and a three-angled pistil. In the *sessile* species average one to two inches in length, can be yellow-green. The upright petals surround the stamens and pistil. The pink petals of the large-flowered species are one to three inches long. Flowers are borne on a pedicel that is one to two inches long. The flowers in *T. grandiflorum* seem to be rather than due to an aging process, white or pink. The fragrance of the flowers ranges from musty to faintly carrion-like to are carrion flies and beetles, which reach the stamens and pistils. The large-flowered species has a more pleasant fragrance that attracts its primary pollinators.

species is a six-angled, one-half to three-quarters matures by late June are 15 three-sixteenths to one-

Where Have All the Lillies Gone? Changes in the Liliaceous Families

By Marion Blois Lobstein, Botany Chair, Prince William Wildflower Society; Professor Emeritus-NVCC

Families	Common Names of Families & No. spp.	Authorities & Dates Proposed	Changes and Notes
Liliaceae	Lily (18)	A.L. deJussieu 1789	Former genera in Liliaceae moved to the following families. See these families for specific genera moved: Agavaceae, Asparagaceae, Colchicaceae, Heloniadaceae, Hyacinthaceae, Melanthiaceae, Nartheciaceae, Ruscaceae, Smilacaceae, Tofieldiaceae, Trilliaceae, Xanthorrhoeaceae, Xerophyllaceae Genera still included in Liliaceae: <i>Clintonia</i> (Clintonias), <i>Erythronium</i> (Trout Lilies), <i>Lilium</i> (Lilies), <i>Mediola</i> (Cucumber-roots), <i>Prosartes</i> (formerly <i>Disporum</i>)(Fairy-bells), <i>Streptopus</i> (Twisted-stalks)
Agavaceae	Agave (3)	Endlicher 1841	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genera <i>Camassia</i> (Wild Hyacinths/Camass Lilies), <i>Manfreda</i> (False-aloes), <i>Yucca</i> (Yuccas)
Amaryllidaceae	Amaryllis (13)	J. St. Hilaire 1805	Includes genera from Liliaceae (Lily), <i>Allium</i> (Onions), <i>Leucojum</i> (Snowflakes), <i>Nothoscordum</i> (False Garlics), <i>Tristagma</i> (formerly <i>Ipheion</i>)(Spring Star), <i>Zephyranthes</i> (Atamasco Lilies); <i>Hypoxis</i> (Yellow Stargrass) now in Hypoxidaceae
Asparagaceae	Asparagus (1)	A.L. deJussieu 1789	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Asparagus</i> (Asparagus)
Colchicaceae	Meadow Saffron (4)	Augustin deCandolle 1805	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Uvularia</i> (Bellworts)
Heloniadaceae	Swamp-pink (2)	J. Agardh 1858	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genera <i>Chamaelirium</i> (Devil's-bits), <i>Helonias</i> (Swamp Pink)
Hyacinthaceae	Hyacinth (4)	Batsch 1786	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genera <i>Muscari</i> (Grape Hyacinths), <i>Ornithogalum</i> (Stars-of-Bethlehem)
Melanthiaceae	Bunchflower (10)	Batsch 1802	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genera <i>Amianthium</i> (Fly-poisons), <i>Anticlea</i> (Death Camases spp.), <i>Stenanthium</i> (Featherbells), <i>Veratrum</i> [(False Hellebores and Bunchflowers (formerly <i>Melanthium</i>)], <i>Zigadenus</i> (Death Camases spp.)
Nartheciaceae	Bog-asphodel (2)	F.M. Fries 1846	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Aletris</i> (Colicroots)
Ruscaceae	Ruscus (8)	M. Roemer 1840	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genera <i>Convallaria</i> (Lilies-of-the-Valley), <i>Maianthemum</i> [<i>M. canadensis</i> (Canada Mayflowers), <i>M. racemosum</i> (formerly <i>Smilacina racemosa</i>)(False Solomon's Seals/Solomon's-plumes), <i>M. stellatum</i> (formerly <i>Smilacina stellata</i>)(Starry False Solomon's Seals/Starry Solomon's-plumes)], <i>Polygonatum</i> (Solomon's Seals)
Smilacaceae	Greenbrier (10)	Ventenat 1799	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Smilax</i> (Greenbriers/Catbriers)
Tofieldiaceae	Tofieldia (2)	Takhtajan 1994	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Triantha</i> (formerly <i>Tofieldia</i>) (False Asphodels)
Trilliaceae	Trillium (10)	Lindley 1846	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Trillium</i> (Trilliums)
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Daylily (1)	R. Brown 1810	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Hemerocallis</i> (Daylilies)
Xerophyllaceae	Beargrass (1)	Takhtajan 1994	Formerly in Liliaceae (Lily); includes genus <i>Xerophyllum</i> (Beargrass)

The traditional Lily family or Liliaceae was first described by French botanist Michel Adanson in 1763, but was officially named by A.L. deJussieu in 1789. The genus *Lilium*, on which the family name is based, has a long history in ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures. There has been a great deal of disagreement in the last 200 years over which genera belong in the Liliaceae. This family has been a catch-all for many, rather different genera and even other families over the years. In the 1800s, botanists such as the American Asa Gray (*Gray's Manual of Botany*) and the British Bentham and Hooker dealt with these disparities by the use of "tribes" — many of which are now the families we see in the *Flora of Virginia*. In the chart above, which summarizes treatment of "Liliaceous"

families in the *Flora of Virginia*, most of the “new” families (with only two exceptions—Takhtajan’s naming of Tofieldiaceae and Xerophyllaceae) have been described since the late 1700s into the mid-1800s. Botanists such as R. M. T. Dahlgren and H.T. Clifford began questioning the traditional Liliaceae makeup in the 1970s and 1980s. But DNA evidence was the final factor that resulted in the treatment reflected in the *Flora of Virginia* and other recent scientific publications. These “splits” also may change in the future as additional evidence emerges. For now, the chart may be of use in sorting out current changes and enjoying these special groups of plants. –*Marion Lobstein*

Gardener’s Gold is a program developed by the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District in the interest of protecting water quality. This program is described as a “win-win” for horse owners and gardeners alike. Local horse owners have free composted manure that they would like to share with their “horseless” neighbors. Contact farms for information about the condition of their compost and pickup details. Below is a list of farms with free, composted manure located near you. (*can load trucks) For more information, or to add your name to our list, contact Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District, 8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109, (571) 379-7514, www.pwswcd.org.

Haymarket:

Stacey Daugherty (703) 754-4378
 Vicki Rosner (703) 754-1221
 Frazer Hendrick (703) 753-0670
 Kim Bednash (703) 753-9794

Manassas:

Bonnie Fulford-Nahas (703) 361-7409
 Liz Hinton (703) 785-4675

Gainesville:

*Kay Shiner (703) 753-9046
 Edith Kennedy (703) 754-7645

*Thamara Horse Boarding Facility (703) 753-3405
 *Courtney Putz (703) 728-8555

Nokesville:

*Vicki Rizzo (703) 594-3342
 Robin Lancaster (703) 754-7776
 Scott Legg (703) 594-3822
 *Jimmie Jones cell (240) 565-5480
 *Karin Hernandez (703-772-6955)
 *Amy Fries (571) 505-1428

Bristow:

Margaret Bailey (703) 754-8492

Laura Butler (703) 369-4224
 *Cathy Cherry (703) 477-9525

Clifton:

*Caroline Squair (703) 815-0235

Fairfax Station:

Sue Wakefield (703) 250-3242
 Joan Onders (703) 323-1140

Lorton:

Eve Harris (703) 339-6295

Out with the old, in with the new?

Sunday morning’s combined dog walk and roadside ramble brings up in bloom dark lyre-leaf sage, buttercups galore, fuzzy pussytoes, and cheerfully plenteous daisy fleabane, which seems to have been blooming for months. Washed spanking clean by the recent heavy rains, all of nature seems to call out, “Look at me, over here, sparkling, just waiting for you to notice.” One or two saplings leaning out from the edge of the woods promise to be shiny-leaved black gums, common elsewhere perhaps, but they present some new excitement around here. A hazel nut tree growing in the drainage ditch across the road has come roaring back into leaf after being cut to the ground from a height of 50 feet or more by the PWC road crew last fall. Switching over to the stinky side of life, I stealthily proliferating on our property along the road. Spaced about 30 feet apart, they’ve been there a while, judging by their size and the fact that one of them is fragrant in bloom. How could I have not seen them before now? Back to the sunny side of things is a first spotting of flowering Rattlesnake weed (*Hieracium venosum*) and Solomon’s Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) both favorites, unassuming and lovely. Mapleleaf viburnum, too, is beginning to bloom surprisingly pink along the driveway, and mountain laurels in the woods are budding.



It’s a rare day! In the front yard, I am lucky enough to be watching as bluebird parents come popping out of their house—first the male, who conveniently perches for my delectation on a dead dogwood branch above his house, then the female, who only just bobs her head out and with her bright black eyes checks to make sure all is really ok out there. Even from where I’m standing I can hear the hatchlings peeping their little hearts out in a wild cacophony of hunger. How do they all fit into that tiny space? Cozily, one assumes. Since they are the first to occupy this birdhouse, it must be ok!

Back outside, as the day's story continues to unfold, a solitary female hummingbird whirs and twitters around the dogwoods beyond the box hedge before flitting away out of sight. But her dry little song is a mere descant to the warbling polyphony of the chorus holding forth in some nearby hickory trees. Wood thrush are back and singing! And they sing for hours—until dusk. It's the first time I've heard them this season, having worried that an orange tabby cat seen skulking about from time to time, who has left sure evidence of its natural ability as a hunter, has wiped them out.

Using binoculars to try to spot the hoot owls whose whoop-whooping several times a day is so loud that we can hear them inside the house, I glimpse instead, high up in the trees, tulip poplars blossoming. A mental note: Correlate Mother's Day with tulip poplar bloom in order to remember to "look up—way up" around this time. If you wait too long, of course, it becomes evident that they *have bloomed*, as they lie scattered all around you on the ground, crawling with ants, usually. A grand sight for sure, but I want, too, to see the fat pods opened up to the sun, flashing in the wind atop their beautiful green leaf paddles. An early swallowtail fluttering about in the cool air is flying evidence of the tulip poplars, or so I like to believe.



The Wood thrush sing on, and the afternoon slowly peels away, leaving a last vision of a newly hatched cicada with great glowing red eyes, sitting side-by-side with its shell of a past-life still clinging to the leaves of tall coreopsis, patiently waiting for the sun to roll around in the sky long enough to dry still-wet wings. Half an hour later, it has flown away.

Who needs June, as the song has it? Life is bustin' out all over in May. --Deanna LaValle High, Editor, *Wild News*



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

Next Meeting: Monday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.
"Lawn into Meadow" with Judith Dreyer
Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20110