



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

www.pwws.vnps.org

Number 2013-04

July-August 2014

Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting

Monday, July 21,
7:30 p.m., Bull Run
Unitarian Universalists
Church, 9350 Main Street,
Manassas, Va. 20110

Janet Davis of Hill House Farm & Nursery in Rappahannock County will share native plant landscaping ideas with us, with a special look at using native groundcovers. Janet's knowledge of native plants focuses on incorporating natives into existing landscapes, planning native plant restoration projects, creating habitat in human-dominated areas, and designing harmonious gardens using native plants. She will bring some plants to the meeting for purchase as well.

Janet holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Virginia Tech and has spent the last 28 years working in various horticultural pursuits—from apple orchards to greenhouses—all the while spending as much time as possible hiking in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Her time spent in "the woods" fostered her passion for our native flora and plant communities and spurred her desire to learn more about native plants.

Janet has operated a landscape design-install-care business for the past 18 years, and focuses on incorporating native plants into garden settings and "managed" areas while employing sustainable garden techniques. Please join us to hear this informative program and to enjoy refreshments and door prizes.



Please note the change of venue for this month's meeting; because of a scheduling conflict with the Bethel Lutheran Church, we will gather instead at the **Bull Run Unitarian Universalists Church** on the corner of Main and Church Streets (Rte. 28) in Manassas.

Parking is available in the lot across the street or along the street at the meters. Subsequent meetings will move back to Bethel Lutheran.

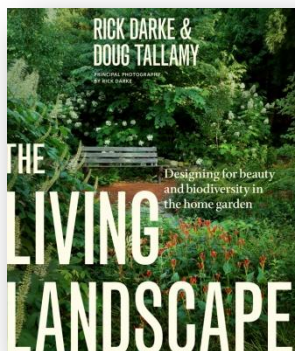
President's Column, July 2014

Many of us had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Doug Tallamy (author of the acclaimed *Bringing Nature Home*) at a special Sunday afternoon program in February, where he stressed the importance of native plants in our

landscapes. He also announced that he and Rick Darke co-authored a book that would be available in the summer. It's here now, and it's beautiful! *The Living Landscape, Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* is an inspiring book that shows how to create a garden that is attractive to both humans and wildlife.

Rick Darke is a landscape consultant and author who served for many years as the curator of plants at the famed Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Last month he

lectured for the George Washington University Sustainable Landscapes Program, and I had the honor of attending this free public event that included an impressive reception. While the frigid lecture hall was



plunged into darkness during the presentation, I did manage to scribble a few legible notes.

As our own Charles Smith has stressed in his lectures, Darke noted that *layers* are so important in the landscape. These layers include herbaceous perennials, shrubs, understory trees, and canopy trees. Asymmetry and imperfection create interesting landscapes. Conservation landscaping conserves opportunities and materials. Gardening is a managed habitat. He does not like the term "invasive exotics" and prefers "weeds." He laments Americans' love affair with mulch and prefers to cover the ground with plants. He especially recommends white wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*) as a woodland ground cover. He likes to start by planting small trees because they transplant better and often outperform larger specimens. To create a quick privacy screen, he may plant tall non-native grasses that will be shaded out as the trees grow quickly. He noted that "durability is a key element of sustainability."

Darke asked his audience for the definition of a "native plant." Some people mentioned plants from pre-Columbian times and at least one person mentioned co-evolution, but Darke stated that the definition needs to show the nature of relationships, place, and time. Thus, the definition of a native that he and Tallamy give in the book is "a plant or animal that has evolved in a given place over a period of time sufficient to develop complex and essential relationships with the physical environment and other organisms in a given ecological community." Hmm. I wonder how well that definition will go over with our neighbors and acquaintances.

As mentioned earlier, Darke likes to cover the ground with plants, not mulch. That's a great segue into our program for this month, "Native Groundcovers" by nursery owner Janet Davis. Let's stop worshipping shredded bark and put some plants in those spaces. Davis will tell us how and may even have some for sale at the meeting. ~Nancy

WELCOME TO PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY!

PWWS extends a warm welcome to new members: Vicky Baturay, Catharpin; Susan Beaverson, Manassas; Sherrie Bishop, Woodbridge; Patti Bright, Manassas, Cathy Clifford, Manassas; Matt Craig, Centreville; Lynn Eklund, Manassas; Jeanann Foster, Haymarket; Beverly Horton, Fairfax; Helen Jacobs and William Hohe, Haymarket; Evamaria Jones, Elkwood; David Lyster, Fairfax; Kit McGinnis, Gainesville; Jamie Nick, Nokesville; Yvette Sandoval, Manassas; Tom Specht and Elizabeth Montanye, Fredericksburg; Beverly Spicer, Long Beach, Ca.; Arlene Stewart, Manassas; Janice Stone, Manassas; Tina Welsh, Manassas; Laura and John Westermeier, Fredericksburg; and Lori Whitacre, Gainesville.

~Janet Wheatcraft, PWWS Membership Chair

Prince William Wildflower Meeting Minutes May 19, 2014

President Nancy Vehrs introduced the speaker, Dr. Dennis Whigham, Orchid Ecologist and Senior Botanist for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

In his presentation, "Native Orchids: Models for Ecological Interactions, Conservation and Education," Whigham revealed that most orchids (Family Orchidaceae) are found in the tropics, but the U.S. and Canada have 250 species, **with 57 percent listed as threatened or endangered at the local, state or federal level.** Of that 57 percent, Virginia has two threatened or endangered species: Small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) and Prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*). The Small whorled pogonia is found in Prince William County.

Whigham explained the life cycle of the *Isotria* (Small whorled pogonia) orchid, and it has been found that it is

dependent on fungi, but all parts of the life cycle are not understood. It can be determined if there is a presence of fungi and how much while growing this orchid in a controlled setting in a laboratory. He started the North American Conservation Center because he believes we need to understand the ecology and then work to conserve the orchids in nature. He recommended two web sites for more information: Go Botany (gobotany.newenglandwild.org) and Go Orchids (<http://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/>). Whigham would like to work with the Virginia Native Plant Society to receive samples from every region for study. Charles Smith suggested that we could fund an intern to collect samples throughout the region or state.

Announcements:

Nancy Vehrs reported for Plant Sale Chair Nancy Arrington. The May 10 plant sale made about \$4,000 this year. All those who helped were thanked; it was very successful.

The April 27 Garden Tour hosts were introduced and thanked: Tamie Boone (and husband Mike) and Glen Macdonald and Dee Brown.

Botany Chair Marion Lobstein thanked the chapter for donating to the Flora Project in her honor; she conducted workshops on using the *Flora of Virginia*, and her time and expertise are very much appreciated. Marion also reported that she had been asked to review a book entitled *Native Plants of the Mid Atlantic*, edited by Bonnie Driggers. Marion is thanked in the book; congrats Marion.

Newcomers (listed below) were introduced and given copies of the May-June PWWS newsletter.

Nancy Vehrs reported that the program at our next meeting on July 21 would be about native ground covers and presented by Janet Davis.

Doorprizes: Suzy Stasulis, hummingbird feeder; Glen Macdonald, Coral honeysuckle vine; Lynn Hoffman, Coral honeysuckle vine (the VNPS native wildflower of the year, *Lonicera sempervirens*); and Jeanne Endrikat, False indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*).

Beth Houston, not in attendance, was thanked for furnishing brownies as part of the refreshments.

Those in Attendance: Suzy Stasulis, Leslie Paulson, Jennifer Graham, Kathy Burch, Carol Thompson, Helen Rawls, Marion Lobstein, Amy Hamilton, Nancy Vehrs, Harry Glasgow, Tamie Boone, Judith McDaniel, Elena Meyer, Brenda Hallam, Elaine Haug, Deanna High, Jack High, Christine Sunda, Jeanne Fowler, Jeanne Endrikat, Laura Farron, Joyce Wenger, Mike Wenger, Phil Louer, Veronica Tangiri, Denna Brown, Glen Macdonald, Karen Waltman and speaker Dr. Dennis Whigham. Welcome to first-time visitors/guests: Jenny Meyer, Lynn Hoffman, Barbara Farron. --*Respectively submitted, Karen Waltman, PWWS Secretary*

NVCC Garden Project

Members of the Biology Club at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College contacted Professor Emeritus Marion Lobstein about resurrecting the Jack Finzel Memorial Wildflower Garden on campus in the woods behind the cafeteria. Marie Davis of PWWS originally designed and planted this lovely spot in the

1980s, but over the years neglect and voracious deer took their toll. Last fall students cleaned up the beds, lined them with rocks, and planted some spring bulbs.

With renewed interest by the students, the PWWS board allocated funds for native plants. Between donated plants and those purchased from the Potowmack Chapter, we provided nearly 60 natives. Biology Club President Stefan Brings and his sister Katrina conducted the major planting in June. We selected plants for their availability and their place on Doug Tallamy's "deer tolerant" list. They included cream violets, white wood asters, eastern columbine, wild ginger, green-and-gold, wild geranium, goat's beard,



and ferns. We will try to provide wild bleeding heart and more ferns in the fall and Virginia bluebells and spring beauties next spring. More students will be able to participate when the regular classes are in session, and we hope that the garden will return to its former glory. --*Nancy Vehrs*

EVENTS

JULY

Thursday, July 24, 9:00 a.m., Stone House, Merrimac Farm, Wildlife Garden Work Day. The wildlife garden is a great place to watch wildlife and we sure could use your help! Our four-season greenscape of native plants is creating a high quality area for families to watch wildlife in a public area that is easy to access. Sponsored by the Prince William Conservation Alliance. RSVP appreciated to alliance@pwconserve.org, (703) 490-5200.

Thursday July 24, 3:00 p.m., Insect Survey at Merrimac Farm. We're taking a closer look at butterflies, dragonflies, and other cool insects at Merrimac Farm. Please join us for a pleasant walk through upland areas in search of insects and help build our wildlife information for this great natural area.

Everyone is welcome, no previous experience required. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants. RSVP (appreciated): alliance@pwconserve.org, (703) 490-5200.

Sunday, July 27, 8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m., Weed & Water Day at the K9 Gunner Dog Park Buffer. We planted more than 200 trees, shrubs, and wildflowers last year, thanks to the support of nearly 100 volunteers. Together we transformed the slope adjacent to the dog park. Planting is a tough job, but all is easily lost without long-term maintenance. Please join us for a morning of weeding, pruning, and watering, as we take care of existing plants and prepare the site for another planting project later this year. Bring a smile and a shovel (if available). Dog park parking lot at Minnieville and Colby Drive, Woodbridge, Va. 22192. Questions and RSVP (appreciated): alliance@pwconserve.org, (703) 490-5200.

Sunday, July 27, 8:00 a.m., Bird Walk at Merrimac Farm. We'll 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. Bird list is available at alliance@pwconserve.org. Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15020 Deepwood Lane. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. More info and RSVP (appreciated not required) to PWCA (703) 499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org.

AUGUST

Tuesday, August 5, 9:00 a.m., Stone House, Merrimac Farm. Wildlife Garden Work Day. Our four-season greenscape of native plants is creating a high quality area for families to watch wildlife in a public area that is easy to access. Sponsored by the Prince William Conservation Alliance. RSVP appreciated to alliance@pwconserve.org, (703) 490-5200.

Saturday, August 23 at 8:00 a.m., Rte. 234 Wetland Mitigation Area Tour : Birds, Butterflies, & Dragonflies. Please join us for a field trip to the Rte. 234 wetland mitigation area led by birding enthusiast Larry Meade and wetlands expert Tom Dombrowski. The Rte. 234 wetland mitigation area is 89 acres of forested and emergent wetlands protected by an upland corridor. This site, which is usually closed to the public, is home

to a wide range of breeding birds, butterflies, dragonflies, and more that have yet to be discovered! Please join us for a fun morning exploring this great area. Meet in the parking lot by Green Front Furniture, 10154 Harry Parrish Blvd, Manassas. RSVP appreciated: alliance@pwconserve.org or call (703) 499-4954.

Wednesday, August 27, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Walk with Marion Lobstein at Deep Cut, Manassas National Battlefield Park with Marion Lobstein. Sponsored by PWWS. Free. Please contact Marion to register or questions regarding these walks: mblobsstein@earthlink.net or call (703) 622-0676.

SEPTEMBER

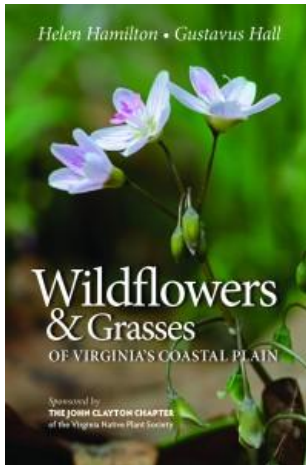
Wednesday, September 3, PWWS Member Day Trip to Richmond. Join fellow PWWS members on a field trip to Richmond. Visit the lovely Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in the morning, then carpool downtown for a tour of the Flora exhibition at the Library of Virginia led by curator Bland Crowder. The exhibition will be disassembled mid September, so make plans now to see it while you can. Register with Nancy Vehrs, nvehrs1@yahoo.com, (703) 368-2898.

Saturday, September 6, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Bristoe Station Battlefield Wildlife Walk. Bristoe Station Battlefield is home to a complex meadow ecosystem. Join outdoor experts and PWWS members **Harry Glasgow** and **Charles Smith** 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. **There is a \$5 fee per person for the walk.** The tour departs from the kiosk in the parking lot at Iron Brigade Unit Ave and 10th Alabama Way, Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Bristow, Va. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. No pets please. For more information call (703) 366-3049.

Saturday, September 13, "The Next Step in Using the Flora of Virginia." See Marion Lobstein Workshops and Walks, below, for details.



Monday, September 15, 7:30 p.m., PWWS Annual and Membership Meeting, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. PWWS will elect officers, hear a program, and have refreshments and doorprizes. Our speaker is Helen Hamilton, author of the recent book, *Wildflowers and Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain*. Helen is a past president of the Northern

Neck Chapter of VNPS. Her presentation will be on ornamental native grasses. Native grasses are important components of wildflower meadows, the tall stems and feathery seedheads furnishing contrast to the home garden. The talk will include discussions of common local grasses, how to identify them, and suitable growing conditions.

OCTOBER

October 11, 8:00 a.m., Bird Walk and Bagels at Metz Wetlands and Rippon Lodge. The location along the edge of Neabsco Creek and the Potomac River Metz Wetlands and Rippon Lodge are attractive places for birds. Join local birding experts on a guided walk of both properties. Discover our diverse population of song and raptor birds. After the walk join us for bagels at Rippon Lodge. Bring binoculars and guide books. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. No pets please. Tours of the house at Rippon Lodge included. **Reservations required; \$10 per person fee.** Julie J. Metz Neabsco Creek Wetlands Preserve, 15875 Neabsco Road, Woodbridge, Va. (703) 499-9812; Rippon Lodge Historic Site, 15520 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, Va. 22192, (703) 499-9812.

October 11, 1:00 p.m., Nature Trail Walk, Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. Take a guided tour along the nature trails at Brentsville and learn about the plants and animals that call this part of Virginia home. There is a \$5 fee per person; children under six are free. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Rd., Bristow, Va. (703) 365-7895.

Workshop Opportunities to Learn to Use the *Flora of Virginia* and Walks offered by Marion Lobstein

This fall Marion Lobstein will be offering two workshops on using the *Flora of Virginia* to identify plants:

Prince William Wildflower Society is sponsoring a one-day workshop, "The Next Step in Using the *Flora of Virginia*." In this workshop, Marion will focus on using dichotomous keys and plant family characteristics of common fall wildflowers. This is aimed at students who have taken her introductory workshop explaining the layout of the *Flora*, using the *Flora* to recognize plant families, and learning to use dichotomous (identification) keys in the *Flora*. **The advanced workshop will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 13, 2014.** If you have a copy of the *Flora of Virginia*, please bring it; participants can also share copies. Oculars or magnifiers will be available to borrow or purchase at a reasonable cost. The cost of workshop is free for VNPS members and cost of a membership for non-members. Pre-registration is encouraged. To pre-register or for more details, please call Marion Lobstein at (703) 622-0676 or email her at mblobstein@earthlink.net.

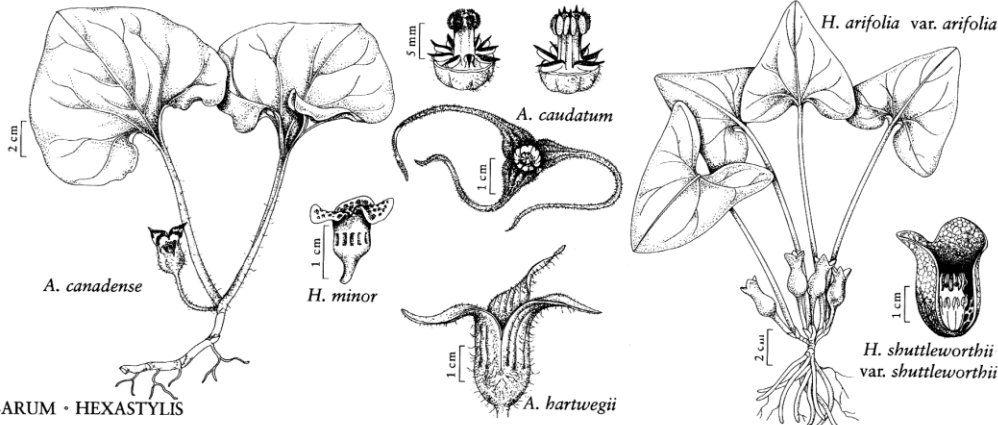
Marion will also offer a similar one-session workshop at Blandly Experimental Farm on **Friday, September 12, 2014** from 9am – 3pm. The cost is FOSA (Foundation of the State Arboretum) and VNPS members \$30 and nonmembers \$35. Please register online at <http://blandy.virginia.edu> or you may call (540)837-1758 ext. 224. Please contact Marion for more details or questions on these workshops: mblobstein@earthlink.net or call (703) 622-0676. For either of these workshops, you may use the first printing of the *Flora of Virginia* or the 2nd printing with corrections.

Marion will be leading two walks at Deep Cut at Manassas National Battlefield Park in August 2014. On **Saturday, August 2** she will lead a walk sponsored by Potowmack Chapter from 9:00 to 11:30a.m., and on **Wednesday, August 27**, she will lead a walk sponsored by PWWS from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Please contact Marion to register or questions regarding these walks: mblobstein@earthlink.net or call (703) 622-0676.

Wild Ginger, the Birthwort Family, and Basal Angiosperm Taxonomy

By Marion Lobstein, Botany Chair, Prince William Wildflower Society and Professor Emeritus, North Virginia Community College

The Birthwort family, Aristolochiaceae, described by A.L. de Jussieu in 1789, is based by name on the genus *Aristolochia* or Birthwort. European species of *Aristolochia* were used since ancient times to hasten the birth process, to terminate a pregnancy, or as a contraceptive. The genus *Aristolochia* is derived from combining two Greek words: “aristos,” meaning best, and “lochia,” meaning delivery—a reference to its use in childbirth. Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) is included in the Aristolochiaceae or Birthwort family. European Wild



ASARUM • HEXASTYLIS

Ginger (*Asarum europaeum*), known as *Asarabacca*, was recognized as a medicinal plant similar to *Aristolochia* since ancient Greek times, specifically by Dioscorides, the Greek physician of the first century A.D. In 1574, the Flemish herbalist Rembert Dodoen assigned the name

Asaron to European Wild Ginger. Other herbalists of the 1500s and 1600s, such as Leonhart Fuchs, also included this species in their works. World-wide, this family includes five to as many as 12 or more genera and approximately 600 species. There have been other family names proposed, such as Asaraceae (E. Ventenat in 1799) and Sarumaceae (Nakai in 1936) but Aristolochiaceae is currently the legitimate family name.

Linnaeus assigned the binomial of *Asarum canadense* to recognize its place name in Canada. The specimen he

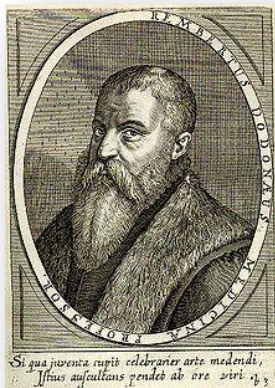
used was collected by John Clayton. In 1730, Clayton also collected what is now named *Hexastylis virginicum*, but Linnaeus assigned *Asarum virginicum* to note the site of collection. The 1762 second edition of *Flora Virginica* lists both *A. canadense* and *A. virginicum*.

The current *Flora of Virginia* (2012) lists four genera with 9 species. These are: *Asarum*, wild ginger, with one species; *Hexastylis*, the heartleaves or little brown jugs, with six species; *Endodeca*, Virginia snakeroot, with one species; and *Isotrema*, Dutchman’s pipe or pipevine, with one species.

These genera have all undergone taxonomic changes over the years. Although *Asarum* was proposed by Linnaeus, but in the discussion of the early

history of this genus, the name *Asaron* dates from the 1570s. *Hexastylis* was proposed by Rafinesque in 1825, but most species currently in this genus often were included in *Asarum*. (Differences in these two genera will be discussed later in this article). Species of *Endodeca* and *Isotrema* were formerly species of *Aristolochia*, a genus proposed by Linnaeus. *Endodeca* was named by Rafinesque in 1828, but the Virginia species *Endodeca serpentaria*, Virginia snakeroot, was named by Linnaeus *Aristolochia serpentaria*. The genus *Isotrema* was described also by Rafinesque in 1819, but the Virginia species *Isotrema macrophyllum*, Dutchman’s pipe, was named *Aristolochia macrophylla* by Lamarck. The 1762 *Flora Virginica* includes two species of *Asarum*, *Asarum canadense* and *Asarum virginicum* (now *Hexastylis virginicum*) and two species of *Aristolochia*, Dutchman’s pipe and Virginia snakeroot. These taxonomic changes are based on DNA research as well as on morphological differences.

The differences between *Asarum* and *Hexastylis* are mainly morphological or physical differences of the plants. The leaves of *Asarum* are deciduous and in pairs, while those of *Hexastylis* are evergreen, leathery, and often spotted or mottled. The flowers show distinct differences as well: inferior ovary in *Asarum* versus superior or half-superior ovary in *Hexastylis*; styles fused or connate in *Asarum* versus free in *Hexastylis*; stamens



with longer filaments in *Asarum* versus shorter in *Hexastylis*; as well as greater fusion of sepals in *Hexastylis* to form a calyx that resembles a jug, thus the common name “little brown jug” for several species of this genus.

Aristolochiaceae is considered a “basal angiosperm” family. Nine basal angiosperm families are covered in the *Flora of Virginia*. These are Annonaceae (Apple Custard Family), Aristolochiaceae (Birthwort Family), Cabombaceae (Water-Shield Family), Calycanthaceae (Sweet-Shrub Family), Ceratophyllaceae (Hornwort or Coontail Family), Lauraceae (Laurel or Sassafras Family), Magnoliaceae (Magnolia Family), Nymphaeaceae (Water-Lily Family), and Saururaceae (Lizard’s-Tail Family). These basal angiosperm families have been traditionally considered dicots but exhibit characteristics of both monocots and dicots. In the *Flora*, these basal angiosperms are compared to monocots and dicots on a chart on page 91. The traditional differences between monocots for field identification are the flower part numbers of 3 or multiples of 3s in monocots versus 4s or 5s in dicots, as well as parallel veins in monocot leaves versus netted veins in dicots. Many of the basal angiosperms have flower parts numerous and undifferentiated into sepal and petals (called tepals) or in multiples of 3s as in Aristolochiaceae. The stamens may be numerous and are often not as developed into filaments and anthers as in *Magnolia*. The pistils may also be numerous and often separate. Aromatic oils to provide attraction for more primitive pollinators such as beetles are often present. The pollen is more like that of monocots than dicots. In *Asarum*, the chromosomes are larger and more like those of many monocots. These basal angiosperms from morphological, DNA, and fossil evidence are the oldest or basal group of angiosperms or flowering plants that gave rise to more typical dicots known as eudicots (“eu” means true) and monocots. For purposes of identification of this basal angiosperm with dichotomous keys in the *Flora*, basal angiosperms and eudicots are combined as dicots. Basal angiosperms also have been referred to as paleoherbs or paleodicots (“paleo” means “old”). The details of the evolution of angiosperms is still being investigated and is better understood each year.



Glossary

Dicot. Flowering plants typically with 2 cotyledons (seed leaves), flower plants parts (sepals, petals, stamens, and carpels—basic part of pistils) in multiples of 4s and 5s, and veins in leaves are netted. In modern taxonomy, this is an artificial group for dichotomous keying purposes combining basal angiosperms and eudicots.

Monocot. Flowering plants typically with 1 cotyledon (seed leaf), flower plants parts (sepals, petals, stamens, and carpels—basic part of pistils) in multiples of 3s and veins in leaves are parallel.

Basal angiosperm. Primitive angiosperms; combined with eudicots to form dicots for dichotomous keying purposes.

Eudicot. Dicots with flowering plants typically with 2 cotyledons (seed leaves), flower plants parts (sepals, petals, stamens, and carpels—basic part of pistils) in multiples of 4s and 5s, and veins in leaves are netted.

Style. Top part of the pistil (female part of flower); where pollen is deposited.

Pistils. Female part of a flower of one or more carpels (basic unit of female part).

Sepals. Outermost flower parts.

Calyx. Collective term for all sepals; may be petaloid and appear petal-like.

Tepals. Sepals and petals that are similar in color and shape.

[Images: address panel, Virginia snakeroot, Bigelow, Jacob, 1786-1879, *American medical botany*, Vol. III, Cummings and Hilliard (1820), accessed at <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/DLDecArts.AmerMedv3>; *Aristolochia serpentaria*, Barton, William P. C. (William Paul Crillon), 1786-1856, *Vegetable materia medica of the United States*; or, *Medical botany: containing a botanical, general, and medical history of medicinal plants indigenous to the United States* (Philadelphia: H. C. Carey & I. Lea, 1818-25.) Accessed at NYPL Digital Library, Digital ID 1101754, <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org>; Rembert Dodoens, Google images; *Asarum-Hexastylis* illustration from *Flora of North America* (1997), accessed at www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantbiology/ncsc/EE/hexastylis.htm; Bristoe Station Battlefield meadow, accessed at <http://jlgarrott.blogs.wm.edu/>; Jack Finzel Memorial Wildflower Garden, courtesy of Marion Lobstein; Hill House Farm and Nursery, courtesy of Janet Davis, accessed at hillhousenativeplants.com.]

In the Garden July 2014:

Where Are All the Butterflies?

Everywhere, it seems, people are commenting on how few butterflies are around this year. On our wooded lot, I spotted a cabbage white early on, but as June faded and July kicked in, I expected to see usual assortment of checkerspots, fritillaries, swallowtails (yes, most of all, them), and perhaps, if I was lucky, a Monarch or two. (The last may have been a small dip into the pool of magical thinking, as I saw no Monarchs last year, despite having the right host and nectar plants). When the *Monarda fistulosa* popped a few weeks ago, a pair of Great Spangled Fritillaries were out all day every day for the entire bloom time—but other than a one-day glimpse of a Red Admiral, there has been nary a one of anything else. No Pipevine



Swallowtails, either, even though in the middle of the front yard is growing an exuberant Dutchman's pipevine (*Aristolochia macrophylla*—see Marion's article, above), which is its primary host plant. (William Cullina *et al.* say that *Asarum canadense* is an alternate host plant for Pipevine Swallowtails.) I have plenty of wild ginger, and I'm pretty sure that there is Virginia snakeroot lurking about as well. But now, as midsummer deepens into the dog days o' summer, I am lamenting the loss of our winged friends. It feels a little funny to miss fretting over how many shredded wings I used to find when the praying mantis prowled the garden (what are they eating now?), but in previous years there were so many butterflies that I am left a little stunned by the deprivation. The fritillaries are still hanging around feasting on Purple coneflower that bloomed on the heels of the Monarda. But I am still waiting to see if anyone else shows up, or if the milkweeds will simply bloom and languish. Maybe the fritillary duo will move over to them and stay the summer. —Deanna LaValle High



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

Next Meeting: Monday, July 21, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

“Native Groundcovers,” with Janet Davis

Bull Run Unitarian Universalists Church, Manassas, Virginia 20110