



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2017-06

November - December 2017

Thursday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
Veronica Tangiri, "Water Quality
Awareness and Conservation Assistance
Grants from the Soil and Water
Conservation District"

Prince William County residents are gaining a better understanding of the water cycle around their potable water, which comes from two main sources; Lake Manassas and the Occoquan Reservoir (which also serves Fairfax County). The Occoquan River watershed, which drains much of Prince William County's local streams, also harbors the Occoquan Reservoir, and therefore it is important for residents to pay more attention to the water quality in their local streams.

The District's Water Quality, Adopt-A-Stream/Pond and Floatable Monitoring programs are all efforts to "Help Do Water Good".

Through the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) grants which is a cost-share program that provides financial incentives, technical and educational assistance to property owners for Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed, urban residents in PWC can now benefit to restore problem areas, control or minimize erosion, conserve water within the landscape (raingardens, Bioretention, green roof, etc.), improve riparian buffer areas, promote wildlife habitat, re-vegetate



bare slopes, stabilize drainage ways and treat stormwater runoff.

To improve water quality and promote Green Community in Prince William County, meet Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality and Adopt-A-Stream/Pond Coordinator with PWSWCD.

President's Corner

Warm, humid temps are finally turning into proper crisp October weather as I write this. Monarch butterflies have been abundant this season and have gathered for the trip south as our local flowers wane. Our very dry September and early October did a number on many fall flowers. Mine seemed to bloom early then shriveled up early as well. At least my tall, cheery swamp sunflowers (*Helianthus angustifolius*) are now going strong. Some of mine grow to ten feet and do not begin to bloom until October.

I was pleased to see that a number of our PWWS members participated in the recent Tri-State Conference on the campus of the US Fish and Wildlife's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. We set registration at 250, the capacity of the modern auditorium, and had a waiting list for this big event. Harry and I split up on Saturday so that I could attend a field trip hike, and he could attend workshops on trees and grasses, respectively. Our own Charles Smith led my field trip up Loudoun Heights across from Harpers Ferry. With breathtaking views of the Shenandoah River, mountains, and passage through a variety of native plant communities, the hike was all I hoped for. I especially enjoyed the flowering witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), the golden leaves of the

paw paws (*Asimina triloba*), the many types of ferns, and pleasing combinations of asters and goldenrods. That Sunday Harry and I visited Antietam National Battlefield Park. It was an interesting contrast with our own Manassas Battlefield. Both have lovely rolling hills and meadows, but Antietam is much quieter with considerably less traffic.

Recently, William Carromero, Valerie Kenyon Gaffney, Harry Glasgow, and I staffed the PWWS/Plant NoVA Natives tables at the Prince William Recycles event at the landfill. What a great family event for us to connect with a broad cross-section of our residents. And great things are happening at our landfill. Besides initiatives such as the use of methane gas for power production, solar energy generation, and efficient composting facilities, it has acres of constructed and planted wetlands designed to protect water quality downstream. It is now adding an apiary. If you ever have the chance for a landfill tour, take it!

Join us on November 2 as we move to a new meeting night, first Thursdays of the “odd” months. We are fortunate to have PWWS member Veronica Tangiri as our speaker this time. She is the Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator for the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District and is a zealous advocate for the water quality of our streams.

~ Nancy

SAVE the DATES

February 11, 2018, 2 pm - Presentation by Larry Weaner — “Living in the Liberated Landscape”, author of “Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change”
Sunday, April 8, 2018 — Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm, Nokesville

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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

Chartered: January 10, 1983

Logo: *Mertensia virginica* - Virginia Bluebells

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Webmaster, VACANT

**Prince William Wildflower Society
Membership Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 18, 2017, 7:30 pm
Bethel Lutheran Church,**

President Nancy Vehrs welcomed all to the Annual Meeting and told of the change for our membership meetings to first Thursdays of every other month. We have been meeting on third Mondays for many years, but the church needs our meeting room for their new Music Mondays. Nancy also announced the drawing for the two *Flora of Virginia* prints would be at the end of the meeting.

Program: Nancy introduced our speaker, Helen Hamilton, from Williamsburg. Helen's program was entitled *Plants without Petals*, and she spoke on four plant groups — grasses, sedges, ferns and mosses.

We were told that along their stems, sedges have edges, and along their stems, grasses have joints. We were treated to beautiful examples of incorporating sedges, grasses, ferns and mosses into gardens, and there was such a variety; one could find something to fit into every landscape condition. Following the program, Helen sold and signed her books — *Wildflowers and Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain* and *Ferns and Mosses of Virginia's Coastal Plain*.

Proposed 2018 Budget Approved: Valerie Kenyon Gaffney moved, Joyce Andrew seconded, and the Proposed 2018 Budget passed.

Announcements: Monthly weeding 'parties' are held at the rest area near Exit 156, and a sign-up sheet is available. Nancy reminded us that the pollinator license plates fund the purchase of plants and signage for the pollinator gardens at the I-95 Rest Stops. [At the September 22nd weeding, we saw many butterflies, bumblebees and honey bees at the early fall flowers.]



Prince William County Recycle Day is October 14, and a sign-up sheet is available for volunteers who want to work at the PWWS and NoVa Natives booths. The bus tour of the Landfill is very interesting, and volunteers can sneak away from duty at the booth and take a tour.

Marion Lobstein announced that the first version of the much anticipated Flora App is available.

Nancy Vehrs said that the Tri-State Virginia Native Plant Society's annual meeting is Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, and it is sold out.

Thank you to all who brought refreshments; we had a table full of goodies!

Winner of the raffle of two Flora of Virginia prints: And the winner is (drum roll, please) Eileen Thornburg. Congratulations Eileen!

Doorprizes: Winning tickets were drawn for Jane Smith, Jeanne Endrikat, Karen O'Leary, Joyce Andrew, Libby Pemberton, Valerie Kenyon Gaffney.

In attendance: Suzanne Conway, Louise Edsall, Pam Popovich, Deborah Brishr, Carrie Blair, Jannell Bryant, Christine Drazdowsky, Judy Gallagher, Karen O'Leary, Marlies Smith, Muriel Devine, David Singman, Connie and Bob Glasgow, Kathy Burch, Lucy Diercks, Jeanne Fowler, Carol Thompson, Charles Burch, Jeanne Endrikat, Nancy Arrington, Veronica Tangiri, Carol Tretkoff, Ulla Dixon, Tom Attanaro, Janis Stone, Janet Martinet, Tom and Joyce Andrew, Arlene Stewart, Brigitte Hartke, Valerie Kenyon Gaffney, Barbara Deegan, Brenda Hallam, Libby Pemberton, Kristin Knodt, Karen Waltman, Deborah Brayhr, Helen Hamilton-speaker, and Jerre Johnson-Helen's guest.

Events

Please note:

NEW GENERAL MEETING NIGHT: PWWS is changing its meeting night! While we have been meeting on the third Monday for more than 30 years, Bethel Lutheran Church now needs the room for its own purposes *every* Monday night. The church can accommodate us on the **FIRST THURSDAY** so we are moving to that night. Please mark your calendars for the first Thursday beginning November 2.

For events not scheduled at the time this issue went to press, please continue to visit the PWWS web page: vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/

November

Sunday, November 12, 12:30, VNPS Potomac Chapter meeting at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA. **A Tale of Two Vines: The Far Reaching and Few Between**, A Talk by Dr. Ashley Egan

Dr. Ashley Egan is a research scientist and assistant curator at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, where she specializes in legume biology (Fabaceae). She will speak on her research into two vines: invasive kudzu and declining native wild thicket bean, a relative of the lima bean.

Kudzu, one of the most notorious invasive species in the U.S., now occupies most of the southeast, and continues to make headway. Introduced from Asia about 140 years ago, it is still not understood how many times it's been introduced or from what genetic source(s). Dr. Egan's lab focuses on answering these questions. Kudzu impacts native species, including other native legume vines such as the wild thicket bean or North American wild kidney bean (*Phaseolus polystachios*). The wild kidney bean is an

important crop and wild relative to the cultivated lima bean, serving as a critical genetic resource for plant breeding efforts, yet its range is in decline where Kudzu is advancing. Dr. Egan's collaborative work has made significant efforts to characterize the conservation status of this Virginia native species.



Sunday, November 26, 8 am, **Bird Walk at Merrimac Farm**, last Sunday of every month. Join us! We meet at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. Info and RSVP, 703-499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org

December

Please watch for announcements on our Facebook page or in your email box for December events of interest.



Help Wanted!

PWWS is in need of a **webmaster** and is still seeking a **treasurer**. Suzy Stasulis, our former webmaster, has resigned, and we thank her for her service to the Society. Familiarity with WordPress is a plus, but video training is available. If you would like to learn more about either of these two volunteer positions, please contact Nancy Vehrs at nvehrs1@yahoo.com or 703-368-2898.

Annonaceae and Asimina Taxonomy Overview in Flora of Virginia

By: Marion Lobstein

Botany Chair, Prince William Wildflower Society
(a chapter of Virginia Native Plant Society)

Worldwide Annonaceae, the Custard-Apply Family, includes 128 genera and approximately 2300 species. The growth forms of this family range from shrubs to trees to woody vines. Annonaceae was named by A.L. de Jussieu in 1789. The family is based on the genus *Annona* which Linnaeus is credited with naming in 1753. The name "Annona" refers to the Roman goddess of yearly produce, referring to dependence on fruits of this genus in the New World. *Annona*, the soursop genus, is the second largest genus in this family with 166 species, all of these species tropical or semi-tropical, primarily of the New World. *Anona* was the first spelling of this genus which was based on the indigenous peoples' name for the soursop. *Guanabanus*, also based on a native people's name, was another name introduced by the French botanist Charles Plumier in 1703. Linnaeus rejected both names as impertinent or associated with magic and instead applied *Annona*, a proper Latin-based name. Linnaeus used the Mark Catesby illustration of the soursop, *Annona muricata*, as the type specimen for this genus.

The Spanish explorer Lope de Oviedo, in 1526, described the *Annona* species, soursop (*A. muricata*) he observed in northern South America and in the West Indies. Soursop was one of the earliest New World fruit trees introduced into the tropics of the Old World. The Spanish physician Nicolas Monardes in 1574 described the potential of medical plants and their cultivation, including soursop.

In the *Flora of Virginia* the only genus in Annonaceae is *Asimina*, a small genus with eight species which are all native to eastern North America. In Virginia there are two species: *Asimina triloba*, pawpaw or common Pawpaw, and *A. parviflora*, dwarf or small-flowered pawpaw. In

the *Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora*, *A. triloba* is documented for all but four counties in central southern Virginia and *A. parviflora* is only found in four extreme-southeastern counties. John Clayton in the *Flora Virginica* (second edition 1762) described *Asimina triloba*, pawpaw, as a species of *Annona*, which he spelled *Anona*.

The first written description of pawpaw was made in 1541 by a Portuguese officer of the Hernando de Soto's expedition where Native Americans in the Mississippi Valley were observed growing and eating common pawpaw fruits. Members of the expedition used the name pawpaw based on the resemblance of the fruit to the papaya. With the settlement of Jamestown Colony in 1612, an early colonist, William Strachey, recorded the Powhatan name of "Assimin" for the common pawpaw. John Lawson in his 1709 *A New Voyage to Carolina* also described this species. In his classic 1754 edition of *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*, Mark Catesby described and illustrated the common pawpaw. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson planted common pawpaws at their homes. Thomas Jefferson was so fond of pawpaw fruits he sent seeds and plants to Europe. During the Lewis and Clark expedition, the men often subsisted on common pawpaw fruits. Daniel Boone and Mark Twain, as well as settlers, ate common pawpaw fruits.



(Annonaceae and Asimina, continued)

In 1753, Linnaeus assigned the binomium for the common pawpaw as *Annona triloba*. In 1796 Richard Salisbury changed the binomium to *A. pendula*. By 1763 Michel Adanson proposed the genus *Asimina*. He used *Annona triloba* the type specimen of his new genus *Asimina*. A series of scientific names for *A. triloba* were proposed under the *Asimina* genus including *A. triloba* by Michel Dunal in 1817, both *A. campaniflora* and *A. conoidea* were proposed by Edouard Spach in 1838, as well as *A. glabra* by Karl Koch in 1869 and *A. virginiana* by Pierre Poiteau and Pierre Turpin in 1873. Other binomia were also applied to *A. triloba* such as *Orchidocarpum arietinum* by Andrea Michaux in 1803, *Porcelia triloba* (L.) by Christiaan Persoon in 1806, *Uvaria conoidea* by Charles

[Lemaire](#) in 1852, and *Uvaria triloba* by John Torrey & Asa Gray 1838. By 1848, Asa Gray's used *A. triloba* in the first edition of *Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States*.

Asimina parviflora, the dwarf or small-flowered was first described by Andre Michaux in 1803. The binomium Michaux assigned was *Orchidocarpum parviflorum*. In 1807 Christiaan Persoon proposed *Porcelia parviflorum* and in 1838 John Torrey & Asa Gray renamed the species *Uvaria parviflora*. The other six species of *Asimina* are located farther south than Virginia, primarily in Florida and have also undergone taxonomic changes. Fortunately, there have not been changes in the binomia of Virginia's *A. triloba* and *A. parviflorum* since the late 1800s.

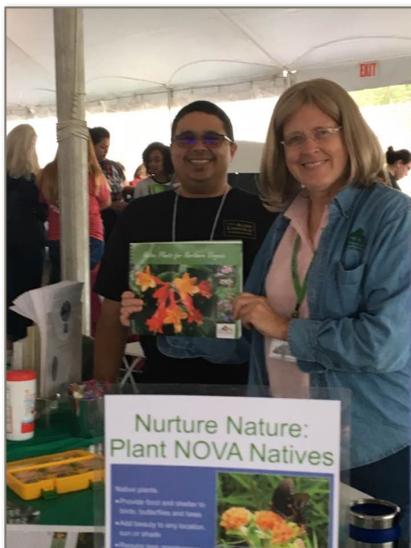


All Smiles!

We have a winner!
Congratulations to Eileen
Thornburg who won PWWS's
raffle of these two beautiful
botanical prints.

Photos from the recent **Prince William Recycles Day** at the Prince William County Landfill

These thoughts were expressed by member and volunteer Valerie Kenyon Gaffney in a post, and we thought they were share-worthy: “A very fun and educational day spent staffing the Virginia Native Plant Society and Plant NOVA Natives booths at Prince William Recycles with Nancy Vehrs, Harry Glasgow and William Carromero. Nothing, NOTHING is cooler than a 4th grader who knows all the parts of a flower and wants to be a marine biologist when he grows up, or a young woman from Patriot High School who monitors the bluebird trail there and as an officer in the school Eco Club, enthusiastically shares her passion. Memo to VBS: if we receive a grant request for a nest cam from this school, we simply MUST approve it. And to the dad who is helping his six-year-old daughter identify birds, and wants to plant his backyard in natives: one backyard at a time, that’s all it takes. Scoff if you must, but the bus tour of the Prince William landfill was AMAZING! And....who’d have thought you could make a table lamp from a PRESS CYLINDER??? Or a Scottish mountain from used books??? Fabulous day! *In photos: Valerie Kenyon Gaffney, William Carromero, Nancy Vehrs and Harry Glasgow.*



PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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



Next Meeting: PWWS Annual Meeting, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Veronica Tangiri, "Water Quality Awareness and Conservation Assistance Grants from the Soil and Water Conservation District"

Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20110

The Four Most Beautiful Seasons

We eagerly awaited the emergence of the first spring ephemerals, and later enjoyed hiking along fields bright with summer wildflowers sustaining bees, butterflies and other small, nectaring creatures. We sat down to rest by streams flanked with ferns, moss and lichens. Summer came and went. These days we take in the brilliant hues of tree leaves as they change color and fall, withering in the early-morning frosts. The last hangers-on detach, finally, in cold winds that herald the arrival of the last season of the year. Trees barren of leaves afford us the opportunity to better enjoy their forms; it is a fine time, too, to see and follow over-wintering birds. Let's go for a hike together to see what we may find. *"We're all just walking each other home" ~ Ram Dass*

