



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

www.pwws.vnps.org

Number 2013-04

July-August 2013

**Monday, September 16,
7:30 p.m., Bethel
Lutheran Church,
Manassas, Virginia**

**PWWS Annual Meeting
and Program:
"Celebrating the Natural
Communities of Virginia:
Plants and Their
Neighbors—A
Community Context,"
with Charles Smith,**

**PWWS Education and
Conservation Chair and
Manager, Natural Resource
Management and Protection Branch, Fairfax
County Park Authority.**

Native plants are best understood and enjoyed in the context of the plants and the environment they have evolved with. Join us as Charles reveals patterns that we can use to identify and appreciate the various natural communities of Virginia.

The program is free and open to all. Our annual meeting and election of officers will take place at this time. Refreshments will be served and doorprizes awarded!

From our president:

Our chapter's annual meeting is upon us and I expect a good turnout from members. With much success, last year we changed from our poorly attended fall weekend picnic meetings to a September program meeting. We continue that format this year. Charles Smith, our speaker on the subject of plant communities, delivered a similar presentation earlier this year at a meeting of the Potowmack Chapter. The room at Green



PWWS members Carol Thompson, Nancy Vehrs, Marion Lobstein, and Helen Walter at Deep Cut

Spring Gardens was filled to capacity at 100, and attendees were rewarded with an excellent program. You are guaranteed to learn something if you attend. And you may win a door prize to boot!

We at PWWS are very fortunate to call

Marion Lobstein one of our own. A retired biology professor, she has graciously offered to lead a local workshop on Saturday, September 28, on how to use the new *Flora of Virginia*. Many of us purchased personal copies of that wonderful tome, but it is a bit daunting for novices to utilize. Never fear! Marion has promised to teach us how to identify our wild plants using its system of keys. We will start with a classroom session and follow up with an afternoon walk at Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area in Nokesville. Don't own a *Flora*? Go to your public library and check it out. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details about how to register for the workshop.

As we leave the summer behind and gear up for fall, we have an excellent opportunity for planting natives in our gardens. We can also volunteer with public native plantings. Nancy Arrington (narrington1@verizon.net) is leading volunteer efforts at Manassas Park Elementary School's courtyard gardens in conjunction with its Go Green Club. The Stone House at Merrimac Farm (alliance@pwconserve.org) has a native plant garden area that can use regular volunteers as well. Other public places, including the

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge and a local Boys and Girls Club, would welcome our chapter's assistance. If you can help, please let me know at nvehrs1@yahoo.com.

As an organization with a focus on native plant education, we welcome opportunities to spread our message at local festivals and gatherings. An upcoming event is Prince William County Recycles Day on Saturday, October 19, at the county landfill where PWWS will participate with a booth. It promises to be a fun, family event focused on the environment. I would welcome staffing assistance from interested members.

Sometimes opportunities for field trips and outings come up on short notice. Follow us on Facebook and check our website (www.pwws.vnps.org) to keep up with the latest events.
~Nancy V

~Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting Minutes~

Monday, July 15, 2013, Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church, 7:30 p.m.

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and explained the change of venue from Bethel Lutheran to Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church. Bethel had scheduled vacation bible school in the evenings the third week of July, our usual meeting time, so Bull Run very nicely accommodated us. Joyce Andrew was thanked for bringing refreshments.

Nancy V. introduced the guest speaker, Charlie Grymes, a member of the adjunct faculty at George Mason University in the Department of Geography and GeoInformation Science. Professor Grymes is also chair of the Prince William Conservation Alliance. A dynamic speaker who entertained and informed, Charlie explained that it is believed the earth is covered in sections or plates, and the science of plate tectonics explains that the African plate pushed against the North American plate 200 million years ago. The Appalachian Mountains were formed from this pressure, but over time the mountains have eroded and the debris and sediment has filled in old valleys in nearby areas.

The 2011 earthquake was centered almost under the North Anna Nuclear Power Plant on Lake Anna, and the plant is built over a fault—a likely place for earthquakes. Charlie acknowledged that there are not that many earthquakes in Virginia, but the power plant perhaps should have been built in a different place.

Announcements: The Dove's Landing planning meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17.

Tuesday, August 20 Marion Lobstein will lead a wildflower walk at Deep Cut at the Manassas National Battlefield Park, and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

Doorprizes:

Tamie Boone - a potted persimmon tree
Glen Macdonald - tote bag
Dee Brown - \$10 gift card
Charlie Grymes - wall cut-outs

Nancy V. thanked our speaker and reminded all that there were more refreshments and drinks available.

Those attending: Nancy Vehrs, Harry Glasgow, Anne Louise Gockel, Suzy Stasulis, Helen Walter, Nell Benton, Jack and Deanna High, Suzanne Parker, Tamie Boone, Judith McDaniel, Glen Macdonald, Dee Brown, Joyce Andrew, Nancy Arrington, Tracy Johnson, Brian McDougal, Amy Hamilton, Joyce Wenger, Veronica Tangiri, William Hendrickson, Jeanne and Stan Fowler, Christine Sunda, Carol Thompson, Deanna Scott, Charlie Grymes, and Karen Waltman.

~Respectively submitted, Karen Waltman,
PWWS Secretary

Manassas Park Elementary School Workday September 14: Please Lend a Helping Hand!

Saturday, September 14 is scheduled as the first of a series of PWWS work days at the courtyard gardens of the Manassas Park Elementary School. We will work from 9:00 to 11:30, weeding and sprucing up the garden's native ferns, perennials, shrubs, and trees for colder weather. If you'd like to help (it's fun, really!) please contact Nancy Arrington, who is coordinating the project with the school and its "Go Green" club. Nancy can be reached at narrington1@verizon.net or (703) 408-7446.

E~V~E~N~T~S

~SEPTEMBER~

Saturday, September 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Native Plant Sale, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Children's Center Rd., Leesburg, Virginia 20175. Nature by Design and Hill House Farm & Nursery will have a large selection of locally native plants for sale. To see plant lists or place advance orders, visit their websites at: www.nature-by-design.com and www.hillhousenativeplants.com. Please note that not all plants listed will be available at the sale so if you know what you'd like to buy ahead of time, just let them know and they'll bring them for you. See

loudounwildlife.org/Event_Native_Plant_Sale_Fall.html for more information.

Saturdays, September 14, 19, and 28, Prince William Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Garden Workdays

We're working on a four-season greenscape of native plants to create a high quality area for families to watch wildlife in a public area that is easy to access. Workday tasks include planting, weeding, mulching and removing invasive plants. For all work days, bring a smile and a shovel. Wheelbarrows and gardening tools are also useful. We appreciate your help!

Workday Schedule Times:

- Saturday, Sept 14, 9:00am-1:00pm
Leader Cary McMahan
- Thursday, Sept 19, 11:00am to 3:00pm
Leaders Morgan Funkhouser and Kim Hosen
- Saturday, Sept 28, 9:00am to 1:00pm
Leader Julie Flanagan

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., 3525 Waters End Trail, Woodbridge, Va. "Homeowner's Shoreline Stabilization Project Tour " with Harry Wiggins, landowner and avid hiker who has traveled 1,260 miles on the Appalachian Trail. Sponsored by the Prince William Conservation Alliance. The Occoquan Reservoir shoreline is subject to substantial erosion due to stormwater runoff and historically poor stormwater management during periods of heavy rain. Most of Prince William's Occoquan Reservoir shoreline is privately owned and landowners play a critical role in protecting the shoreline. Another project is now planned for the fall of 2013, utilizing the same materials along 240 feet of additional shoreline. Please join us for an on-site tour and a discussion of the techniques and lessons learned from projects aimed at protecting the Occoquan Reservoir. Copies of the plans and budget will be available for review.

Monday, September 16, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, PWWS Annual Meeting and Program: "Celebrating the Natural Communities of Virginia: Plants and Their Neighbors – A Community Context," with Charles Smith, PWWS Education and Conservation Chair and Manager, Natural Resource Management and Protection Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority. Native plants are best understood and enjoyed in the context of the plants and the environment they have evolved with. Join us as Charles shares patterns we can use to identify and appreciate the various natural communities of Virginia. The annual meeting and election of officers will take place at this time. Refreshments will be served and doorprizes awarded! The program is free and open to all.

Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Merrimac Farm's Stone House, 15020 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. "A Beginner's Introduction to Using the Flora of Virginia Workshop," with Marion Lobstein.

Prince William Wildflower Society is sponsoring a one-day workshop on introducing users to the new (2012) *Flora of Virginia*. Marion Lobstein, Botany Chair of PWWS and NVCC Professor Emeritus, will overview the layout of the Flora and give tips on recognizing plant families and keys in the Flora. This workshop is an easy way to begin to know and use your Flora. You are encouraged to bring a brownbag lunch and stay for a fieldtrip of the grounds and field use of your Flora. If you have a copy of the *Flora of Virginia*, please bring it, but participants can also share copies. Oculars or magnifiers will be available to borrow or purchase at a reasonable cost. This will be the first of a number of workshops on use of the Flora in different seasons with future workshops planned for spring and summer. Cost of workshop is FREE for VNPS members and \$30 for non-members if space is available. Registration is required because space is limited. To register, or to find out more about the Workshop, please call Marion Lobstein at (703) 622-0676 or email her at mblobstein@earthlink.net.

Saturday, September 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale, 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. This will be the tenth anniversary and the 21st occurrence of this twice-a-year, non-profit, community plant sale. Over a dozen vendors from four states will be offering plants for sale. See <http://www.parkfairfaxnativeplantsale.org/> for more information.

Saturday 28, September 28, 7:00 p.m., Our Piece of the Planet Benefit Party, "Celebrating 15 Years of the Rural Crescent," a smart growth tool to help control sprawl development and protect green open spaces countywide. "Distracted Naturalist" Cindy Smith will be featured, along with locally grown food and a silent auction. Event takes place at the home of Cindy Smith

and Rick Lindsay, Nokesville, Va. Please RSVP for directions, online mappers are inaccurate. Please join us for a fun evening in Nokesville, support locally-grown stewardship activities, meet new friends, share your views! Suggested donation is \$50. Please register online at alliance@pwconserve.org or call (703) 499-4954 or mail to PWCA, PO Box 6351, Woodbridge, VA 22195. Questions? Contact us at alliance@pwconserve.org or (703) 499-4954.

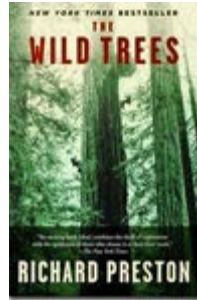
Sunday, September 29, and the last Sunday of every month, 8:00 a.m. Monthly Bird Walk at Merrimac Farm, Stone House at Merrimac Farm 15020 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville, Va. Leaders: Harry Glasgow and Nancy Vehrs. We'll look for birds and other wildlife, especially butterflies and dragonflies, as we travel through the uplands to the edge of the floodplain, covering a variety of habitats, including open fields and woodland edges. Everyone is welcome. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. More info and RSVP (appreciated) to PWCA at (703) 499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org.

Monday, September 30, 7:00 p.m., Arlington Central Library, "The Forest Unseen." Author and professor David Haskell will relate his year of scientific and personal observations of a single square meter in the old growth forest of the Cumberland Plateau. Haskell's award-winning book *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*, is a 2013 Pulitzer Prize finalist and has been hailed by E.O. Wilson as a "new genre of nature writing, located between science and poetry." Co-sponsored by the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, the Arlington County Public Library, and the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Free, reservations not needed.

~OCTOBER~

Saturday, October 5, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., "Stewardship Virginia Seed Stomp," Visitor Center, Leesylvania State park, 2001 Daniel K. Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge, Va. Take a day and remember that everyone is responsible for the health of our environment. Bring your best stomping shoes to the park and help us preserve our natural resources for future generations and have some fun at the same

time. Call (703) 583-6904 to volunteer or for more information on this event.



Sunday, October 6, 3:00 p.m., PWCA office, 2241-F Tackett's Mill Drive, lower level near the lake, Good Natured Book Group with Harry Glasgow. Tired of football every Sunday? Take a break and join us for a lively conversation about a great book. The book for October 6 is *The Wild Trees: A Story of Daring and Adventure* by Richard Preston. You can read more about the book or purchase it at www.amazon.com, plus it is available at the library and other bookstores. We'll have treats and drinks and good conversation. Mark your calendar now; we hope you can join us for a fun afternoon.

Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m., Tree Planting at K9 Gunner Dog Park, sponsored by Fairfax Water, Prince William County Parks, Lake Ridge Parks & Recreation Association, Supervisor Mike May, and the Prince William Conservation Alliance. Join us at the Dog Park Parking Lot at Minnieville Road and Colby Drive, 13012 Sturbridge Drive in Woodbridge, to help make your community more attractive and slow the flow of stormwater runoff. This planting includes areas adjacent to the popular K9 Gunner Memorial Dog Park, leading to the parking lot and dry stormwater pond. Trees and shrubs will be on hand. Bring a smile and a shovel, work tools appreciated. Lunch is provided. RSVP appreciated to alliance@pwconserve.org, (703) 499-4954.

~NOVEMBER~

Monday, November 18, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. "Ferns in the Natural Landscape," with Carl Taylor, botanist and former program director at the National Science Foundation. Dr. Taylor will identify and describe some great garden ferns for the Mid-Atlantic region, and examine the unique structure of ferns and their fascinating life history. He will also show us how the life history of ferns reveals why ferns grow where they do and what they need from you as their gardener. Although few try it, ferns are also easy and fun to grow from spores. More details on the program and the speaker will be posted soon on our web site, <http://pwvus.unps.org> and in the November-December issue of *Wild News*.

~PWWS SWAG~

Interested in polo shirts, hats, or jackets with the PWWS bluebell logo?
Nancy Vehrs has a catalog of items available for sale in a rainbow of colors.
Look for it at an upcoming meeting and place your custom order.

New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)

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

During late summer and early fall, one of the loveliest wildflowers in Northern Virginia is the magnificent New York ironweed. The striking purple flower heads of this graceful member of the composite family add color and interest to damp roadsides, pond and marsh banks, and damp fields. New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) is the most common species of this genus in our area. The genus name is in honor of William Vernon, an English botanist of the late 1600s and early 1700s who traveled widely in North America. The species name refers to New York where the plant may have been first collected. The range of this species is from Ohio and New York State south to Georgia. According to the *Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora*, this species is found in most counties of Virginia.

Ironweed is a member of the Asteraceae or composite family with only disk or tubular flowers. (Many of the composites such as the daisy have both ray and disk flowers with the "petals" being the ray flowers and the disk flowers make up the center.) The purple tubular disk flowers are found in groups of 20-40 or more a head. Each individual flower has a 5-lobed tubular corolla, 5 stamens, a pistil with an inferior ovary and a slender and thread-like style, and like other composites, the calyx (sepals) is composed of modified, bristle-like structures forming a pappus that in this species is a purple double structure with outer short, narrow scales and inner, long

bristles. The fruits are achenes or cypselae which are elongate, cylindrical, ribbed, and hairy. Like other composites, individual heads of flowers are subtended by a cup of leafy bracts that are called an involucre. The involucre of an ironweed flower head is bell-shaped or oblong with individual purplish green bracts (phyllaries)—each with a long bristle-like tip—that are arranged in a woven pattern. The individual heads are on short stems (peduncles) and are arranged in a flat-topped inflorescence pattern described as a corymbose cyme. The primary pollinators of ironweed are species of butterflies and bees; the fruits are wind dispersed.



The rather coarse 3 to 6 foot-tall stems of New York ironweed may range from rough hairiness to smooth. The alternate leaves are 3 to 10 inches long, lanceolate with serrated edges, and vary in their surface texture, as do the stems. This perennial species has a well-developed root system. The common name ironweed may have come from the toughness of the stem and roots.

American Indians used ironweed for medicinal purposes, making teas from leaves to treat female

problems, including relief from childbirth pain, and as a blood tonic. Root teas were used to treat loose teeth and for stomach ulcers and hemorrhaging.

Worldwide, there are more than 500 species of this genus with some shrubby tropical species. In the Northern Virginia area, there are two less common species than the more common New York ironweed. *V. glauca* (meaning blue-green) is called broad-leaved ironweed and has leaves broader

than *V. noveboracensis*. The pappus is yellowish and the inflorescence is more loosely branched than in New York. The habitat of *V. glauca* is more



upland woods in the piedmont zones ranging from Pennsylvania to Georgia. *V. gigantea* is tall ironweed and may be loftier than the other two species of our area. Its inflorescence is looser than

New York, but the pappi are purplish. The habitat of this species is

moist areas of more mountainous areas from New York to Georgia and, according to the *Digital Atlas*, is found only in Loudoun and Fauquier counties in Northern Virginia.

Now is the time to enjoy the beauty of this handsome and colorful genus in our area. Ironweed is often associated with other colorful fall composites such as Joe-Pye-weed, golden rods, or various bright yellow sunflower species. The complementary and contrasting colors of these composites help bring color and beauty at the end of summer into early fall.

[Photos: Deep Cut Walk, Deanna LaValle High; Swallowtail on Ironweed, Floyd, Va., JRP UGardener, accessed at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ugardener/>; Images: "Common Summer Wildflowers of West Virginia, accessed at wvu.org; other illus. in public domain, various sources; goat with ironweed, "Ironweed: A Flinty Flower," illustrated and written by Patterson Clark, Washington Post (August 23, 2011), accessed at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/metro/urban-jungle/pages/>].

Save the Date! February 16, 2014! Doug Tallamy will be here to talk to us about how homeowners can make a difference in our environment. Details forthcoming in the November -December issue of *Wild News*.

Ironweeds Not Iron-clad

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

Most of approximately 20 species of *Vernonia* or ironweeds are native to North America out of roughly 500 species worldwide. Referencing the *Flora of Virginia*, there appears to be significant taxonomic changes to three species: *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York ironweed), *V. glauca* (upland ironweed), and *V. gigantea* (tall ironweed). Exploration of the taxonomic history of the species and genus reveals a number of earlier taxonomic changes. Linnaeus assigned the genus *Serratula noveboracensis* to *V. noveboracensis*, *S. glauca* to *V. glauca*, and perhaps *S. altissima* for *V. gigantea* in his 1753 *Species Plantarum*. John Clayton and



New York Ironweed

Johann Gronovius in the 1762 second edition of *Flora Virginica* used the genus *Serratula* to designate species of ironweed included in this work.

Andre Michaux is credited with first collecting specimens in the American Colonies, perhaps in the Carolinas, of *Vernonia noveboracensis*, New York ironweed. Henry Gleason in 1953 used *V. harperi* for *V. noveboracensis* but *V. harperi* is no longer accepted as a synonym for

V. noveboracensis. In 1788, Walter used the genus *Chrysocoma* for *V. noveboracensis*, proposing *C. tomentosa* and *V. gigantea* as *C. gigantea*. Asa Gray in his 1884 work referred to *V. glauca* as *V. noveboracensis* var. *latifolia*,

but by 1894 Nathaniel Britton referred to it as *V. glauca*.

Of the three Virginia species of *Vernonia*, *V. gigantea* has undergone the most change, having been classified as *Chrysocoma gigantea* by Thomas Walter in *Flora Caroliniana* (1788) and as *Cacalia gigantea* by Otto Kuntze (1891). *V. gigantea* has primarily gone back and forth from *V. altissima* by Thomas Nuttall in 1818 and even in more recent floras, such as the *Flora of West Virginia* (1978); in the 7th and 8th editions (1908 and 1950 respectively) of *Gray's Manual of Botany*; in the *Manual of the Flora of the Carolinas* (1968); and in popular wildflower books such as Peterson's and Newcomb's wildflower guides.

In 1983, however, Britton and Brown listed *V. gigantea* in the *Illustrated Flora of the Northern States and Canada*, as did Arthur Cronquist in the 1991 *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* (2nd ed.).

Chrysocoma as a genus is still in use but for other members of the Asteraceae. *Serratula* is still used for a quite a few of Old World species of *Vernonia*. Other groups of composites, such as *Cirsium* thistles and *Centaurea* knapweeds, have drifted in and out of the genus *Vernonia*.

When I started researching for this article, I did not realize how extensive taxonomic changes were involving our three Virginia species of ironweed. It would seem that scientific names are not Iron(weed)-clad, but instead undergo many changes over time.

In a future article, I will explore changes in the genus of Joe-Pye Weeds from *Eupatorium* (1753) to *Eutrochium* (1818); back

to *Eupatorium* in most of the later 1800s and 1900s; to *Eupatoriadelphus* (late 1900s); and, now, once again back to *Eutrochium*.

Nothing is iron-clad in taxonomy!



Natives for the Garden

By Nancy Arrington

Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)

"I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it."

--*The Color Purple*,
Alice Walker

I was reminded of this quote recently when I saw several clumps of ironweed growing along the Fairfax County Parkway. I always thought she was talking about ironweed because its vivid color in a field, beside the road, or in a garden is hard to ignore.

New York ironweed is one of my favorite late summer natives, and I grow it in several locations in my garden. In a spot of rich, moist soil with four to six hours of sun (similar to its native habitat) it tops out at 6-8' and its bright purple flowers are a striking contrast with tall, yellow-flowering cup plant (*Silphium* sp.) and green-headed coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*).

It's a good nectar plant for butterflies and other pollinators and in my butterfly garden, with drier soil and only two to four hours of sun, it blooms well at 3-4'. Plants can also be kept shorter by cutting stems by half in early summer. Additional butterfly nectar plants that are good companions include white-flowering flat-top aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*), both red and blue lobelias (*L. cardinalis* and *siphilitica*), turtleheads (*Chelone* spp.) and summer phlox (*P. paniculata*), as long as it has been dead-headed to encourage continued blooming. I have read that ironweed attracts hummingbirds, but I haven't seen them visit plants in my garden.

I am always on the lookout for plants with yellow or chartreuse foliage to brighten my mostly shaded garden. Also a sucker for the oddities, especially natives, that most sensible gardeners don't grow, I couldn't resist yellow-leaved pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana* 'Sunny Side Up') in Plant Delights Nursery's catalog. I think its yellow leaves and late summer purple berries will be a perfect companion for ironweed's flowers.

In addition to New York ironweed, I have grown stemless ironweed (*V. acaulis*) since I got it from We-Du mail order nursery in 1987. This delicate, graceful species is about 3' tall, has an attractive cluster of basal leaves, very few stem leaves, and the same vivid purple flowers. Native to Georgia and the Carolinas, it grows well in dappled shade and adapts to dry soil.

Another species, *V. lettermannii*, has been on my "want list," since reading Allan Armitage's advice in *Native Plants for North American Gardens*: "As soon as you read this, put down the book and purchase this plant." It has very



narrow foliage, similar to that of *Amsonia hubrechtii*, stands 2-3' tall and is adorned with the familiar bright purple flowers in late summer to early fall. Mail order nurseries, including Niche Gardens in North Carolina, carry it.

New York ironweed seeds freely and seedlings grow quickly, often flowering the first year. Deadhead plants if you don't want the seedlings. Plants can be divided when they're young

but this becomes difficult with older, established clumps. As far as I know ironweed is not bothered by insects or diseases, but I have read that mildew can be a problem in areas with poor air circulation. If you aren't already growing this native beauty, plan to purchase some at our plant sale next spring!

[Photo of Narrow leaf ironwood *Vernonia lettermannii* 'Iron Butterfly' from "American Beauty Native Plants," accessed at <http://www.abnativeplants.com>.



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

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
"Celebrating the Natural Communities of Virginia," with Charles Smith
Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20110