



# Wild News

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Prince William Wildflower Society  
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2022-05

September — October 2022

## The Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting via Zoom Thursday, September 1, 7:30 pm Program: “Autumn Wildflowers and Shrubs – from Asters to Witch Hazel”

Register on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZYrd-qrqjgrG9HY8eieU28av9CAzpLS8pXY>. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., but the Zoom session will open at 7 pm for social time.

PWWS President Nancy Vehrs will present “Autumn Wildflowers and Shrubs – from Asters to Witch Hazel” at our chapter’s annual meeting via Zoom on September 1. Based on a program that she has presented previously to garden clubs, Nancy has enhanced this presentation to include more native shrubs with autumn interest. Many of our native fall-blooming wildflowers are important for migrating butterflies, and she will include information about them.

**Nancy Vehrs** has served as chapter president for a number of terms and also serves as president of the statewide VNPS. She is a native of the Manassas area and traces her love of wildflowers to her discovery of Virginia Bluebells blooming along Bull Run when she was a child. She is an alumna of the College of William & Mary and spent her entire career with Fairfax County government. Blissfully retired for ten years, she enjoys exploring natural areas. She shares her life with her companion Harry Glasgow and two wonderful kitties, Little Nicky and Henry David.



## President’s Column

Fall is upon us, and school has started. It’s also time for our PWWS annual meeting on September 1. I’m honored to have served as your president for many years, and I appreciate your support as I ask to serve another term. Our full team of officers is ready and willing to continue in their roles for another term. Many thanks to Val Neitzey, Valerie Gaffney, and Karen Waltman for their ongoing service. It is also my pleasure to present my native plant gardening program on autumn wildflowers and shrubs for this meeting.

What fun it was to see the return of a summer garden tour on July 30! We were fortunate that the weather cooperated with fair skies and mild summer temperatures. On behalf of PWWS, I thank Nancy Berlin and her Master Gardener volunteers for welcoming us at the inspiring Teaching Garden. We also thank Val and Shane Neitzey and Cheryl Hancock for opening their lovely gardens. We couldn’t do it without our volunteers as well: Joyce & Tom Andrew, Nancy Arrington, Marie Davis, Claudia Thompson Deahl, Brigitte Hartke, Sarah Hutchinson, and Willow Prall. Thank you all!

As many of you know, Harry and I missed the July meeting because we were in Europe on a tour of historic cities in Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic. We saw some sobering sights, such as the concentration camp at Auschwitz and destruction from war, and we learned much about the proud history of Poland. We did have a free day in Berlin and took the opportunity to see plants at the Berlin Botanical Garden. It was pleasant to see flowers and hear and see a few birds. Purple Loosestrife, a beautiful but highly invasive plant here in the US, was at home there. We delighted in a rather tame Great Tit that visited us as we sat on a bench. Despite his name, he was a small bird that resembled a chickadee. I especially enjoyed a scenic boat ride on the Elbe River in Germany, and a private Chopin piano concert in Krakow was another highlight. One surprise on the tour  
*continued*

(continued from page 1) was the size of our group — just three couples! The trip was designed for about 24-30 people, but tourism hasn't recovered since Covid hit and the war in nearby Ukraine didn't help. We traveled by motorcoach and train. We were fortunate that a heatwave broke the day after we arrived, and temperatures were pleasant for us.

The VNPS celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year this year, having formed in 1982 as the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society. Join us in a celebratory annual meeting at Natural Bridge on Saturday, September 17. Rather than a whole weekend of events, we are having a presentation by ecologist Devin Floyd and holding our business meeting in the morning, followed by field trips in the afternoon. Those wanting to socialize and network more can eat dinner at the historic Natural Bridge Hotel.

Nancy

### PWWS Summer Garden Tour Views

If you missed Nancy Vehrs' fabulous Facebook photos taken at our recent summer garden tour, here are a few your editor took from her album. Below are scenes from Cheryl Hancock's garden; upper right are from the Teaching Garden; and lower right are from Val Neitzey's garden. Thanks to our garden hosts, and also to all the helpers, not all of whom are pictured here.

The Teaching Garden



The Cheryl Hancock Garden



The Neitzey Garden



**Prince William Wildflower Society  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 7, 2022, 7:30 p.m. On Zoom**

Valerie Kenyon Gaffney, Treasurer of PWWS, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. President Nancy Vehrs and partner Harry Glasgow were on a trip to Europe. Valerie introduced Claudia Thompson-Deahl, our new Conservation Chair. Jocelyn Meloy was thanked for serving as our past Conservation Chair. She and her husband moved to Linden, and from there it proved too far to attend meetings and events in Manassas. She had organized work parties to remove alien invasives at Manassas National Battlefield Park, and those efforts were very appreciated.

A summer garden tour is organized for Saturday, July 30, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The addresses of the gardens will be emailed to membership, and visitors will be welcome to tour Valerie Neitzey's garden and Cheryl Hancock's garden. Also The Teaching Garden at the St. Benedictine Monastery will be included, and the Prince William Master Gardeners will be conducting tours there.

Valerie introduced the speakers, Marion Lobstein and Judy Gallagher, for a program entitled "The Fascinating Milkweeds and their Relatives of Northern Virginia." Marion and Judy are Charter Members of PWWS, so they have been active with the organization since early 1983! Marion said that in Prince William County and Northern Virginia we have eleven of the thirteen documented milkweeds in the *Flora of Virginia*. The monarch butterflies use milkweeds as their host plants, and the following insects are found on milkweeds: Milkweed tussock moth larvae (eat the leaves), Red milkweed beetle, Milkweed leaf beetle (black and orange) and Milkweed stem weevil (gray). There are 450 insects known to feed on some portion of the milkweeds! Marion also discussed the structure and medicinal uses of milkweeds.

Together, with Judy's fantastic photography of the insects and Marion's knowledge of the plants, they presented a very interesting program on these important plants and their insect visitors!

You can watch this recorded Zoom program on Prince William Wildflower Society's website. <https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/>

*Karen Waltman, Secretary*

***A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!***

*We'd like to welcome this year's new members to our growing Prince William Wildflower Society family. Joining this year in January, February, March and April were Jeanann Foster, Kate Cohen, Yvonne Fredlake, Jeff Maugans, Sarah Coradetti, and Ricki Guyant.*

*In May we welcomed Kathleen Dawson, Jan Wilson, Romina Gundert, Melinda Landry, Elyse Napoli, Patricia Parker, Jeanne Riley, Karen Schmidt, Katie Simon, and Jan Wilson.*

*In June and July we welcomed new members Laura Lagaly, Ann Meyer, Tiffany Kopcak, Judith McDaniel, Donna Ryan, and John Sunda.*

*For many of us, the day can't come too soon when our meetings will be held in person again. We look forward to welcoming new members in person, hopefully sometime in the not-too-distant future, to enjoy refreshments and raffles again as we socialize and sit down to our speakers' programs.*

To Manage your VNPS Membership OnlineGo to <https://vnps.org/myaccount>

Enter your VNPS member username. This is usually your email address. If you don't know or have forgotten your password, click on "**Forgot Password?**" Once logged in, you can manage your account and preferences by clicking on "**What would you like to do?**" in the upper right-hand corner. Select "**Update My Profile Information.**"

To request a paper newsletter, at the bottom of your Profile Information, set "**Electronic Distribution**" to "**No.**"

Update any other profile information, then click "**Submit.**"

**The Guide to Native Plants for Northern Virginia**

This Plant NOVA Natives guide, now in its fourth Edition, will help you choose native plants for your landscape. You can get a copy in one of these ways:

- Order a copy here: <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/buy-the-native-plant-guide-book>
- [Download](#) the guide for free
- Or use the online [plant search app](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note:

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

### AUGUST

**Friday, August 26, at 9 am. Prince William Wildflower Society will hold a Botanical Walk at Deep Cut, Manassas Battlefield. Bert Harris, Ph.D.,** executive director of The Clifton Institute, will lead the walk for PWWS at Manassas Battlefield's Deep Cut Meadow.



Deep Cut Meadow is a VNPS Registry Site recognized in 1994 through botanical surveys led by Marion Lobstein. As old field/meadow sites, Deep Cut and the Unfinished Railroad show their greatest plant diversity summer into fall. They include many native species that would have been present in old fields of the area at the time of the Civil War. No charge, but registration required. Email Nancy Vehrs at [nvehrs1@yahoo.com](mailto:nvehrs1@yahoo.com)

### SEPTEMBER

**September 7 to 15, Urban Tree Summit 2022 — Montgomery Parks and Casey Trees, Washington DC present the eleventh annual conference: Urban Tree Summit.** If you wish to learn more and enroll, please visit this website: <https://caseytrees.org/urban-tree-summit-2022>. Presentations will focus on the health and welfare of trees in our increasingly developed landscapes. Learn from some of the country's leading experts about innovative efforts to plant, protect, and preserve trees in urban and suburban settings. One half-day virtual session (\$25) and three field sessions (\$60 each session).

**Thursday, September 8, 7 to 8:30 pm. VNPS Potowmack Chapter will present a video conference program, "Invader Detective — Using iNaturalist to Save the World: Citizen Science with Dr. Sara Tangren"** The public is welcome to attend. Register here: <https://vnps.org/potowmack/events/invader-detective-using-inaturalist-to-save-the-world-citizen-science-with-dr-sara-tangren/>

**Saturday, September 10, 9 am - 3 pm Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy will hold its semi-annual native plant sale at Morven Park, 17195 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg, VA.** Three native plant nurseries bring thousands of native plants from which to choose, and there will be knowledgeable staff to provide expert advice and answer questions from the buyers.



**Saturday, September 17, VNPS Annual Meeting, Natural Bridge Hotel and Conference Center.** You can find more information and register here: <https://vnps.org/events/2022-annual-meeting/> Watch your email for details.

**Saturday, September 17, 9 am - 3pm, Fall Native Plant Sale at Green Spring Family Festival. Green Spring, Alexandria**

**Saturday, September 24, 9 am - 2 pm, Northern Alexandria Fall Native Plant Sale, Church of St. Clement, Alexandria, VA** <https://vnps.org/potowmack/events/northern-alexandria-fall-native-plant-sale-3/>

**Sunday, September 25 and October 30, Bird and Nature Walk at Merrimac Farm, last Sunday of every month.** Join us! We will see birds, butterflies, plants and more 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. We meet at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars, insect repellent, and camera. Info and RSVP, (703) 499-4954 or [alliance@pwconserve.org](mailto:alliance@pwconserve.org) View the bird list for Merrimac Farm here: <http://www.pwconserve.org/wildlife/birds/lists/merrimacfarm.htm> RSVP appreciated, but not required.

### OCTOBER

**Thursday, October 13, 7:30 - 9 pm, VNPS Potowmack Chapter will present, "The What, When and How of Pruning Native Shrubs and Small Trees with Maraea Harris"** Register here: <https://vnps.org/potowmack/events/the-what-when-and-how-of-pruning-native-shrubs-and-small-trees-with-maraea-harris/>

### NOVEMBER

**Thursday, November 3, at 7:30 pm Susan Leopold, Ph.D., of United Plant Savers will be the speaker for PWWS's general meeting.** She is an ethnobotanist and passionate defender of biodiversity.



**Sunday, November 13, Potowmack Chapter will have its annual meeting at 1 pm, followed by a program at 2 pm** with Urban Forest Conservationist for Northern Virginia Jim McGlone who will present a program, "My Five Favorite Trees." Via Zoom.

## Partridge Pea and Senna Species

Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

At the end of summer and going into autumn, there are two families of dicot plants that dominate the fields and roadsides: the Composite Family (Asteraceae) and the Pea Family (Fabaceae). In past *Wild News* issues, there have been quite a few articles on composites: the "Asters," Goldenrods, Joe Pye Weeds, and Ironweeds. There is an article on Redbud, a spring-blooming woody member of the Pea Family but no article on herbaceous members of the Pea Family. This article will highlight some of these species you will enjoy seeing in late summer and autumn.

A good place to see some attractive members of the Pea Family is Deep Cut in the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Since the early 1990s, members of the PWWS and VNPS have kept checklists of species observed at this site in late summer and early fall. A full checklist will be provided for download from the PWWS chapter website. This article will focus on two unusual genera of atypical members of the Pea Family and the species that can be found at Deep Cut. Most members of the Pea family have a typical irregularly symmetrical flower referred to as papilionaceous or butterfly-like structure. This flower shape is formed by the upper petal or standard being the largest, the two lateral or wings being intermediate in size, and the two lowest petals forming the keel being the smallest. The stamens and a simple pistil are inside of the keel.

### Wild Senna



At Deep Cut you will find the Large-flowered Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), the Sensitive Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista nictitans*), and Wild senna (*Senna hebecarpa*). The species in these two genera *Chamaecrista* and *Senna* have irregular flowers with the top petal the largest but not the typical papilionaceous arrangement. In the species of both genera the compound leaves have many leaflets arranged in a pinnate pattern (like a bird's feather), and these will respond to touch or other stimuli such as wind or strong light to close (nyctinasty). Also, all of these species

produce typical legume or bean-like fruits. In the Partridge Pea species these split open (dehisce) in an elastic or coiling fashion expelling the seeds away from the parent plant, but this elastic coiling does not occur in *Senna* species. Small mammals and birds will farther disperse the fruits and seeds from the parent plants of both groups. Both genera were formerly placed in the genus *Cassia*.



Large-flowered Partridge Pea

*Chamaecrista* is derived from the Greek *chamae* which means low growth and *crista* meaning crested, *fasciculata* meaning bunch or fascicle referring to the arrangement of the flowers, and *nictitans* means winking referring to the leaflets winking or closing when touched. *Senna* is derived from the Arabic word *sana*, a term for plants with laxative and cathartic properties. and *hebecarpa* means hairy-fruited. The distribution of these native species extends to north, south, and west from Virginia, often as far west as Texas. *C. nictitans* is also native to Mexico and into parts of Central and South America. There are two other species of *Senna* in the Northern Virginia and adjacent counties area - *Senna marilandica* (Maryland Wild Senna) and *Senna obtusifolia* (Sicklepod, Coffeeseed).

In the flower structure of these species, the 5 sepals are green, the 5 petals are yellow, and the stamen number is usually 10 except in *C. nictitans* where it is 5. The flowers of *C. nictitans* are smaller than *C. fasciculata*. The simple pistil is a single carpel that forms a legume or pod with seeds. Except for *C. nictitans* which is thought to be primarily self-pollinating), pollinators of these species primarily Bumble Bees but also other bees including Sweat Bees that collect pollen from their flowers. As well, these species also serve as host plants for Cloudless Sulphur and other butterflies. In these species there are extra-floral nectaries at the bases of the leaf petioles that are attractive to ants and even spiders. The ants may help protect the plants from herbivory. All these species provide food for wildlife but can be toxic to domesticated animals if ingested at too high a level.

The habitat of these species is typical of old fields with the *Senna hebecarpa* preferring wetter conditions. All these species are nitrogen-fixing as are most members of the Pea Family. [Nitrogen-fixing bacteria live in nodules formed by the roots of these plants and take nitrogen from the atmosphere and change it into nitrogen compounds the plants can use to make proteins, and this process enriches the soil in which the plant grows. None of these species should be eaten by humans, but there are many medicinal uses.

*Senna* species are mainly used for their laxative properties. Other Native American uses included use as an anthelmintic (eliminate intestinal worms) as well as to treat heart problems and pneumonia, to lower fevers, and as a root poultice. Partridge Pea medicinal uses ranged from use as a cough syrup, to make poultices, and as a stimulant.

When you visit Deep Cut or other meadow or damp areas this time of year, keep your eyes out for these interesting but atypical Pea Family members. Look for some other typical Pea Family species:

- Desmodium marilandicum* - Smooth Small-leaved Tick Trefoil
  - D. paniculatum* - Panicked Tick Trefoil
  - Lespedeza capitata* - Round-leaved Bush-clover
  - L. procumbens* – Trailing Bushclover
  - L. repens* - Creeping Bushclover
  - L. virginica* - Slender Bush-clover
  - Stylosanthes biflora* - Pencil Flower
  - Strophostyles helvola* - Trailing Wild Bean
  - S. umbellata* - Pink Wild Bean
  - Trifolium agrarium* - Yellow Hop Clover \*
  - T. pratense* - Red Clover \*
  - T. repens* - White Clover \*
- \*Nonnative

## Visiting DEEP CUT

As old field/meadow sites, Deep Cut and the Unfinished Railroad have their greatest plant diversity summer into fall. These sites are located near each other on Featherbed Lane, which is reached from Route 29 proceeding west towards Gainesville. These sites include many native species that would have been present in old fields of the area at the time of the Civil War. Deep Cut, one of the sites of a battle during Second Mananass, is an old field/meadow habitat that has both dry and wet habitats and therefore a diverse species list.

Summer and fall wildflowers of particular interest feature the Slender Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes lacera* var. *gracilis*), Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) and Green-flowered Milkweed (*A. viridiflora*) as well as the Swamp (*A. incarnata*) and Common Milkweed (*A. syriaca*). The Bracted Plantain (*Plantago aristata*) and Pinweed (*Lechea racemulosa*) are less conspicuous species that are still of interest with some magnification.

The composite family is well represented at this site by Scaly Blazing Star (*Liatris squarrosa*), Orange Coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), Yellow Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), Flax-leaved Aster (*Sericocarpus linifolius*), Whorled Rosinweed (*Silphium trifoliatum*), New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), Tickseed Sunflower

(*Bidens polylepsis*), and a variety of species of asters and goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) that add color well into October.

The pea family is also well represented with the Large-flowered Partridge Pea (*Cassia fasciculata*), Wild Senna (*C. hebecarpa*), the Pencil Flower (*Stylosanthes biflora*), and two species of wild bean (*Strophostyles helvola* and *S. umbellata*).

Rose Pink (*Sabatia angularis*), False Pennyroyal (*Isanthus brachiatus*), Hyssop Skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*), Bluecurls (*Trichostema dichotomum*), Wild Yellow Flax (*Linum virginianum*), Rose Polygala (*Polygala sanguinea*), and Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corolata*) are some additional colorful species.

Fall also is a prime time to see the native grasses such as Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and Little Bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*) at both these sites.



# The FabulOUS Fabaceae or Pea/Legume Family

Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

The Fabaceae or Leguminosae, the Pea or Legume Family, is the third-largest flowering plant family in number of species, with only the Orchidaceae, the Orchid Family and Asteraceae, the Composite Family, being larger. This family has about 730 genera and nearly 20,000 known species. Leguminosae was proposed by A.L. de Jussieu 1789 based on the typical type of fruit, the legume, of members of this family. Most family names are based on a genus in that family and end in -aceae but Leguminosae is still a legitimate family name even though Fabaceae is the preferred name. In 1836, Fabaceae was proposed by John Lindley based on the genus *Faba* which is no longer an accepted genus name. Species of *Faba* genus are now included in the genus *Vicia*, the Vetches. *Faba* is Latin for bean based on the Faba Bean which was one of the earliest Old World cultivated crops. Humans have long depended on species of this family for food, forage, shelter, medicines, poisons, dyes, enrichment of cultivated soils, and erosion support. Wildlife relationships are also important for many insects and spiders, birds, and mammals.



*Lespedeza virginica*, photo by Jim Allison

Members of Fabaceae are found on every continent except Antarctica. Most members of this family have symbiotic relationships of Nitrogen-fixing bacteria associated with their roots and are important sources of proteins in their seeds and in enriching the surrounding soil. The growth forms include trees, shrubs, vines, and herbs. Most have alternate leaves that are often compound. The flowers of most species have flowers that have a papilionaceous structure, with a large top petal called the standard or banner, two intermediate size wings, and two small petals forming a keel in which the stamens and pistil are found. The fertilized pistil (composed of a single carpel) forms the fruit known as the legume or bean pod.

Virginia has a many native and naturalized species of Fabaceae. John Clayton included approximately 35 Fabaceae

species in this 1762 *Flora Virginica*. In the John Clayton Herbarium at the British Museum of Natural History houses approximately 40 herbarium sheets of the 35 Fabaceae species included in the *Flora Virginica*.

In the 2012 *Flora of Virginia* Manual and the 2020 updated *Flora of Virginia* App, Fabaceae is the second largest family of dicots. With added species in the App, there are almost 50 genera with all but 8 of these found in the general Northern Virginia and adjacent counties area. 90 species of the 130 species are found in that area. Some of the major taxonomic changes in 2012 Manual included the following:

- Cassia* (Partridge-peas *Chamaecrista* and *Sennas* *Coronilla varia* (Crown Vetch) now *Securigera varia* *Desmodium* (Tick-trefoils)-3 species moved to *Hylodesmum*
- Lespedeza* (Bush-clovers)-2 species moved to *Kummerowia*
- Psoralea* (Scurfpeas) split into *Orbexilum* (Buckroot) and *Pediomelum* (Lance-leaf Scurfpea)

The 2020 update of the App included the following major additions or changes:

- Added and in the Northern Virginia area
  - Lotus tenuis* – slender birdsfoot trefoil (included as a waif in the Manual)
  - Styphnolobium japonicum* - Pagoda Tree (included as a waif in the Manual)
- Added but not in the Northern Virginia area:
  - Desmodium illinoensis* - Bundleflower, Prairie Mimosa (included as a waif in the Manual)
  - Ulex europaeus* - Gorse (included as a waif in the Manual)
  - Galactia brachypoda* - Sandhill Milkpea
- One genus split into 2 varieties:
  - Wisteria frutescens* var. *frutescens* – American Wisteria
  - Wisteria frutescens* var. *macrostachya* – Mississippi Wisteria

Some additional information you may find helpful in identifying Fabaceae species. The following are the largest genera in terms of species number in the Manual and the *Flora* App:

- Desmodium* - 14 of 20 spp in the Northern Virginia area, most native
- Lespedeza* - 9 of 12 spp in Northern Virginia area; most native
- Vicia* - Vetches - 8 of 11 spp in Northern Virginia area; most nonnative
- Lathyrus* - Wild Peas, Vetchlings - 4 of 5 spp in Northern Virginia area - 2 are native
- Trifolium* - 10 of 11 spp in Northern Virginia area; most nonnative

Fabaceae is a large and diverse family that is easy to recognize by its flowers and leaves. Enjoy observing a diversity of these species especially in the late summer and early autumn months.

# Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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



**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 1, 7:30 pm, Via Zoom**

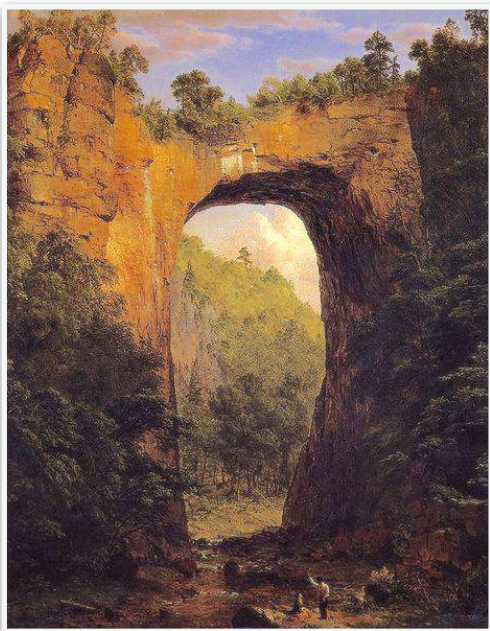
**With Nancy Vehrs: "Autumn Wildflowers and Shrubs – from Asters to Witch Hazel"**

## Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the VNPS at Natural Bridge!

Natural Bridge & Conference Center  
15 Appledore Lane  
Natural Bridge, Virginia 24578

**Saturday, September 17 — 9 am to 5 pm**

Natural Bridge Hotel & Conference Center



*Painting by Frederic Edwin Church,  
"The Natural Bridge, Virginia", 1852*

If you have not yet registered for this upcoming VNPS milestone event, there is still time to do it. Information: <https://vnps.org/events/2022-annual-meeting/> This one-day event will feature speaker Devin Floyd, Executive Director of the Center for Urban Habitats; Devin received a VNPS Research Grants Award in 2021 and 2022 to study the Piedmont native grasslands.

Attendees will gather on the Center grounds between 9 and 10 am for a Business Meeting and will elect the VNPS Board of Directors for the coming year; following that, they will participate in their pre-registered choices of several field trips to nearby destinations: Cedar Creek Trail in Natural Bridge State Park, a mile-long, easy walk at Skyline Trail, also in the Park; Blue Ridge Parkway Tour along a 20-mile section of the

Blue Ridge Parkway; a visit to Brushy Hills Preserve & its rich plant life; the challenging Goshen Pass Natural Area Preserve hike with its chestnut oak forest; Sulphur Spring Trail supporting a diversity of shade-loving native herbs and shrubs; and Maple Flat Ponds in George Washington/Jefferson National Forest where you can explore the geology, ecology and plant life of Shenandoah Valley sinkhole ponds near Stuarts Draft.

Also worth celebrating, under Nancy Arrington's leadership PWWWS organized 40 years ago, and became an official chapter in 1983.