



Wild News

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Prince William Wildflower Society
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
Number 2024-1 January - February 2024

The Prince William Wildflower Society *Annual Member Slideshow Via Zoom* Thursday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.

The January 4 program is our annual slide show, and we invite you to participate by sharing native plant and nature photos. If you have never shared your screen on Zoom and need some guidance, contact Nancy Vehrs, nvehrs1@yahoo.com, at least a few days ahead of the meeting so that you feel comfortable with the surprisingly easy technology. The Zoom will begin at 7 p.m. for Social Time, with the formal meeting and presentation scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdumvqzovGN12pzMwS4LG9Ni6fF6y5gI6>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



President's Column



As we end 2023, we have major land use changes coming to Prince William County. The Digital Gateway, planned for the Pageland Lane corridor between Manassas National Battlefield Park and Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest, was approved by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors at a marathon meeting December 12-13. County planning staff and the Planning Commission

had recommended denial of these applications. Both PWWS Conservation Chair Claudia Thompson-Deahl and I testified in opposition to the three applications that composed the Digital Gateway proposal. Claudia testified around 4 a.m. and I at 5:10 a.m., but both of us did so virtually. The Board's decision will result in the construction of data centers for the next 20 years—if technology doesn't change during that time. Another recent controversial data center rezoning was the approval of a location on Rollins Ford Road abutting residential properties. Your PWWS board acknowledges the need for data centers and the potential revenue to the tax base but believes that they belong in the already-defined data center overlay district, not next to parks, schools, residential areas. Let's hope that this divisive issue and others pitting East versus West are put to rest when the new Board Chair takes office in January.

As is our tradition here at PWWS, we will ring in the new year with our annual member slide show at our meeting on January 4 via Zoom. I plan to share some photos from adventures in Augusta County and maybe some close to home. We would like to plan out the evening, so if you would like to share your photos, please let me know at nvehrs1@yahoo.com.

If you like to make new year's resolutions, resolve to get out in nature more. Winter has its own charm and all it takes to be comfortable is proper clothing. Spring will be here soon enough.

~ Nancy

Note from your editor: What can be found in the woods right now? Photos below are of winter flora I found and photographed in Prince William and Fairfax Counties forests during winter. First row, Witch Hazel, Partridgeberry with ferns and lichens, Liverwort; second row, Rattlesnake Plantain, fading Earthstars, and a tiny mushroom surrounded by ground or running cedar — a club moss — and other mosses.

The photo of Nancy Vehrs was taken at the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, VA, in early November, when the tree leaves of the nonnative Ginkgo grove were at their most brilliant yellow.



**Prince William Wildflower
Society
Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 2, 2023
On Zoom**

President Nancy Vehrs opened the Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm, with some announcements. The *Wild News* Newsletter was emailed today, as well as the printed copies which were mailed through the post. *Wild News* looks best in color and can be viewed online!

Some events coming up this month: A restoration planting with Earth Sangha on Sunday morning in Dumfries from 9 am to 1 pm. Digital Gateway public hearings are about to start for the Data Centers on Pageland Lane, next to Manassas Battlefield Park, this Wednesday Nov. 8th at 2 pm with the Planning Commission, and in December with the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. If you are interested in speaking and would like information on how to testify, Nancy encourages you to sign up for workshops. Sections are hosted by the National Parks Conservation Association and Protect Prince William. One is planned for Sunday evening at 5 pm, and the other at noon on Monday, respectively. Diane Liga announced a Virtual Rally with the National Wildlife Federation Action Fund, to take place on November 13th from 2 to 3 pm via Zoom, about Native Plants on a national level. Nancy will send out information.

Save the date: The 6th Annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium will be held February 10, from 9 am to 4 pm, at the George Mason University Manassas Campus.

Nancy welcomed John Magee, our guest speaker, who has been designing and building landscapes in the Washington, DC metro area and beyond for the past 30 years. After receiving his BS degree in Agriculture from Ohio State University and spending a few years training and showing horses, he settled into the industry as a general foreman with Pennsylvania's highest award-winning landscape firm; while he was in Pennsylvania he became a volunteer at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary where he met his wife, Susanna, and was introduced to habitat gardening and the use of native plants in the landscape. Now John operates his own award-winning design firm, Magee Design in the beautiful countryside of Middleburg, where he lives. He also enjoys kayaking and long walks with his wife and his dog, Chewy. He also created and hosts the award-winning podcast, "The Native Plant Podcast", a podcast to inform the public about the benefits of landscaping with native plants. And a few years ago he was the Keynote speaker for the Prince William Native Plant Symposium.

John Magee spoke about why he got into native plants. He went with his wife one time to the Galapagos islands, and he tagged along with some park guards who were going up to remove invasive species, and where John first learned about invasive species and their detriment to native habitats; when he came back home he became very aware of invasives in Virginia, in neighborhoods. John questioned whether the landscaping industry really is a green industry.

~ Janine Lawton, Secretary

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Vacant

“Botanizing with Marion”

By Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

The article on the taxonomy of the Violet Family was recently posted in the Botany and Taxonomy category of Botanizing with Marion. Read about the role of John Clayton, the colonial Virginia botanist and coauthor of the mid-1700s *Flora Virginica* and the naming of our native Violets and more about the taxonomic history and changes of names of our native members of the Violet Family. Images of Clayton’s almost 300-hundred-year-old herbarium specimens are included in this article, and you can click on each of them for an enlarged image. The link to this article is: [Taxonomy-of-the-Violet-Family-Violaceae-by-Marion-Lobstein.pdf \(vnps.org\)](https://www.plantnovatrees.org/tree-killing-vines)

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Tree Rescuers Volunteer Education Program

Volunteers for the **Plant NOVA Natives** Tree Rescuer program distribute door hangers to alert Northern Virginia residents who have trees at risk from invasive vines such as English Ivy. Sign up now so PNN can mail you the materials and see how many you can distribute from November 1 to February 1. No experience necessary! [Find the details here.](#)

Does it make you sad to see trees smothered by vines? You can do something about it!

This is a very easy volunteer opportunity. All you need to do (after watching the video and reading the instructions) is the following:

1. **Walk around** counting trees at risk from invasive vines
2. **Drop off door hangers** (which we will mail you) for the landowners to alert them to the problem
3. [Report back](#) to us

Learn how to ID Invasive and Native Vines: <https://www.plantnovatrees.org/tree-killing-vines>

The Prince William Native Plant Symposium is coming — Saturday, February 10!! Please spread the word!

save the date!

6th Annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium

2024

Saturday, February 10

9 AM - 4 PM

**STOP MOWING,
START GROWING!**

A Native Plant Symposium for
Beginners & Beyond

Create a Beautiful Yard, Save Time & Money, Improve Water Quality, Build Habitat for Pollinators & Birds.



Photo from: Julia Flanagan

Keynote Speaker:
Keith Tomlinson
Smithsonian Associates Study Leader

Registration opens early January.
Hybrid event in person or online

Verizon Auditorium
George Mason University
10900 University Blvd.
Manassas, VA 20110



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UPCOMING EVENTS in 2024

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/



January opens the box of the year and brings out days that are bright and clear.
~Leland B. Jacobs

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 3, 10 am.

Leopold's Preserve will host one of a continuing Winter Lecture Series held every Wednesday from December to March — this lecture will be held at **BRMC's Mountain House Headquarters, 17405 Beverley Mill Drive, Broad Run. "Restoring Native Plant Habitat" with Matt Bright of Earth Sangha.**

Learn about common native plants, why they are critical for wildlife and how we can make their populations healthier.

RSVP:

https://www.leopoldspreserve.com/events-1/winter-lecture-series-native-plants-2024-01-03-10-00/form?utm_campaign=fd1eb20d-a890-4494-83d3-0f09b95040b0&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=b408c8fc-4df9-48e6-9999-9b5a264dcf45

Leopold's Preserve is not a park or a preserve but privately owned and managed by the White House Farm Foundation. The address is 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run, VA. The public is welcome to visit its trails any time from dawn to dusk and enjoy its regularly occurring nature programs.

Thursday, January 11, via Zoom, 7 - 8:30 pm
Potowmack Chapter meeting. Charles Smith will present Natural Landscaping: Repairing & Rewilding Our Spaces. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84552929699>

Saturday, January 20, 10 am. Leopold's Preserve (address is above) Naturalist Walk: Geology.
Explore our region's local geology with a naturalist.

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 8, via Zoom.

Potowmack Chapter. Lara Call Gastinger presents Botanical Art, Illustration and Journaling. Lara was chief illustrator for the Flora of Virginia Project. For more info and to register, visit here: <https://vnps.org/potowmack/events/botanical-art-illustration-and-journaling-with-lara-call-gastinger-via-zoom/>

Saturday, February 10, 9 am - 4 pm

6th Annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium, Keynote Speaker is Keith Tomlinson, Smithsonian Associates Study Leader, Verizon Auditorium at the George Mason University Campus, 10900 University Blvd., Manassas VA 20110

Saturday, February 24, 10 am - 5 pm. Free Days at the Botanic Garden. U.S. Botanic Garden, 100 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington DC.

Clifton Institute Events

Those who donate \$40 yearly to the Clifton Institute are eligible to participate in their Adult and Family programs, nature and bird walks, and open-access days.

On February 10, from 1 - 3:30 pm, the Clifton Institute will hold a Nature Journaling Meetup and Walk with nature journaler, Eleanor Harris; this one will be focusing on ducks. This is one of their quarterly nature journaling meetups.

The Clifton Institute is located at 6712 Blantyne Road, Warrenton, VA. For more information visit their site with this link: <https://cliftoninstitute.org/events/>

There is a New Nature-oriented Facility in Centreville, Fairfax County:

The Fairfax Park Authority recently celebrated the completion of Sully Woodlands Stewardship Education Center at Ellanor Lawrence Park in Chantilly. Dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 18, the new Education Center is located within Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5301 Walney Road, and was designed to meet the rigorous standards of the Living Building Challenge — an achievement attained by only a small number of projects worldwide, according to a November article in Gazetteleader. “Designed to wow adults and children alike, this interpretive

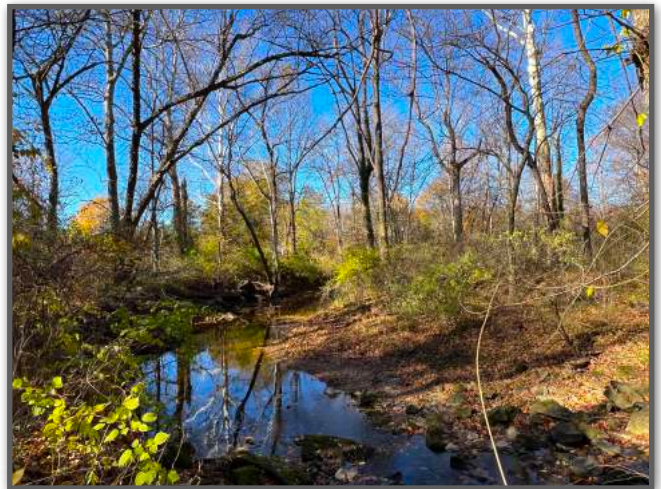
facility demonstrates the principles of environmental stewardship that make a world of difference in the way we interact with and affect our natural environment,” county officials said.

“Every aspect of this facility is an exhibit that illustrates our connection to the natural world and creates an experience that will ignite the imaginations and creativity of young people through hands-on experiences and play.”

The project features an interpretive center with multipurpose spaces, a

kitchen and restroom; there is an educational kiosk, a plumbing room, an outdoor amphitheater, and observation deck; in addition, there is a large STREAM (Science, technology, recreation, engineering, arts and math) activity play space with connecting trails. There are native plantings, and other related site improvements.

(Editor’s photos, featuring two donors to the project (among many others), Harrison Glasgow and Nancy Vehrs. Harry assisted in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.)



Use this Link to a Vascular Plant List for Ellanore Lawrence Park, with taxonomy derived from the 2012 Flora of Virginia and the online Virginia Digital Atlas (2017): <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/nature-history/eclawrence/eclp-flowering-plant-species.pdf> — Both native and non-native plants are listed.

Bucking a Disturbing Trend:

“The Lost Words” by Robert Macfarlane, illustrations by Jackie Morris

“The Lost Words” Background:
“Once upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first almost no one noticed — fading away like water on stone. The words were those that children used to name the natural world around them: acorn, adder, bluebell, bramble, conker — gone!” ~ Macfarlane and Morris, 2018

When the new edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary was published in 2007 — a book widely used in schools the world over — some readers noticed that around forty nature-related words had been dropped from the book. In their place new words appeared in the edition — attachment, blog, broadband, internet, bulletpoint, cut-and-paste and voicemail, many others, had been added. Words to represent

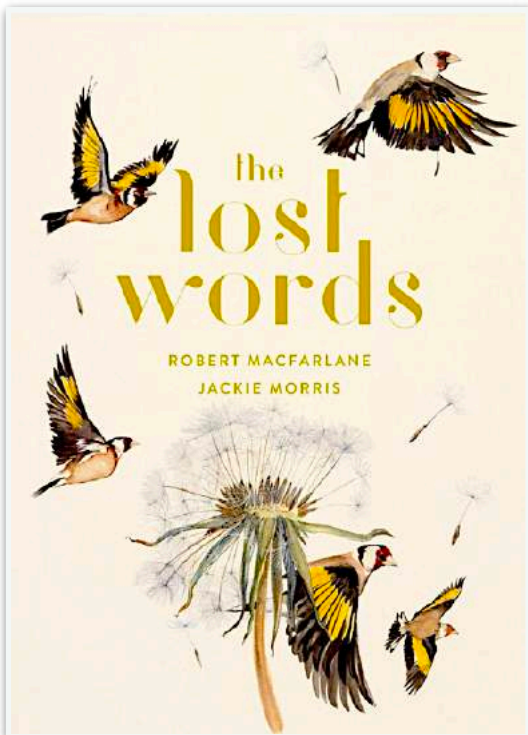
things found in the natural world had been displaced by the indoor and the virtual. Many noted the growing gulf between childhood and the natural world, as children spent more and more hours indoors surrounded by man-made, technology-related objects.

What words were dropped in favor of the new ones? Acorn, adder, dandelion, bramble, conker were no longer included; fern, heather, kingfisher, otter, raven, willow, wren, newt, magpie . . . bluebell — gone. Absent were the words starling, weasel, lark, ivy and heron.

In their beautifully illustrated book, which since its publication in 2017 has delighted adults and children alike, Macfarlane and Morris have created a visual treat — a beautiful book of poetic spells to delight its readers.

Macfarlane and Morris intended the large, lavishly illustrated book for “children aged 3 to 100” as a book “to conjure back the common words and species that are steadily disappearing from everyday life — and especially from children’s stories and dreams,” a book “to catch at the beauty and wonder — but also the eeriness and otherness — of the natural world.”

Macfarlane explains: “We’ve got more than 50% of species in decline. And names, good names, well used can help us see, and they help us care. We find it hard to love what we cannot give a name to. And what we do not love we will not save.”



Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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



**Next Meeting Via Zoom: Thursday, January 4, 2024
Member Slide Show**

Allelopathy- noun

Some plants have the ability to affect their immediate neighbors by producing and releasing toxic chemical compounds into the soil or air. When these chemicals are absorbed by a neighboring plant, they can inhibit growth or even kill the plant. This action allows the toxin-producing plant to reduce competition for available resources and dominate the utilization of these resources, which were intended for your plants. The toxin-producing plants are said to be allelopathic, which is the ability of a plant to release toxins that suppress the growth of plants in its vicinity.

One of the most commonly known allelopathic species is the black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). This stately native shade tree provides hardwood for making furniture and produces walnuts for human and wildlife consumption. These trees produce a highly allelopathic compound called juglone in their leaves, stems, and fruits, with the highest concentration in the roots. If a plant that is sensitive to juglone comes into contact with juglone, the plant may show signs of yellowing leaves, wilted foliage, stunted growth, and, ultimately, may die.

There are varying degrees of sensitivity to juglone. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia provides information on plants that are tolerant of the juglone chemical, including ferns, perennials, grasses, sedges and rushes, shrubs, trees and vines. <https://mgnv.org/plants/best-bets/black-walnut-tree-tolerant-plants/>

