



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2006-04

July-August 2006

JULY 17 MEETING: DRAGONFLIES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Mark your calendars! Long-time regional naturalists *Kevin Monroe* and *Tony Robison* of the **Audubon Society of Northern Virginia** have been working several years to document which dragonfly species occur in our region. Their cumulative work of capturing, photographing and releasing dragonflies has resulted in encounters with species not seen for over 50 years, the discovery of species never before documented here, and wonderful photographs of all of them. Come enjoy a slide show of the species found to date and a discussion of their natural history, the environments in which they live, and methods for conserving and attracting these fascinating and beneficial insects. The meeting will be held on **Monday, July 17 at 7:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church** at 8712 Plantation Lane in Manassas (about one and a half blocks on the opposite side from the Prince William Hospital.) As always, PWWS programs are free and open to the public. PWWS is a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society.

WELCOME NEW PWWS MEMBERS

Our recent plant sale yielded many new members, and others found us from the VNPS Web site. PWWS welcomes the

following new members who have joined our ranks since January:

Vicki Baturay of Catharpin
Pat Bowen of Oakton
Maureen Finnerty of Haymarket
Karen Fitzgerald of Manassas
Ruth Johnston of Gainesville
Janine Lawton of Manassas
Rosemary Luckett of Manassas
Timothy Rook, Sr. of Manassas
Catherine Scharff of Oakton
Christian Shotwell of Manassas
Barbara Tuset of Fairfax Station
Jenine Webb of Manassas



Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting May 15, 2006

The Prince William Wildflower Society met on May 15, 2006 at Bethel Lutheran Church. President Charles Smith convened the meeting at 7:40 pm with a hardy welcome to all and thanks to everyone who help with the Spring Garden tours, the plant sale, and the chapter's participation at the Prince William County Spring Fling. A few

announcements preceded the evening's program:

Nancy Arrington announced that the plant sale revenues included \$4,137.50 in plant sales plus memberships for a grand total of \$4,700. Nancy asked that members continue to collect pots for the next sale and reminded members to divide plants this fall in preparation for next year's sale.

Marion Lobstein told the group that a contract with the University of Virginia Press is pending for the printing of the *Flora of Virginia*.

Charles introduced **Karen Rexrode**, well known by many for her many years of experience in plant farming and sales, to speak to the chapter on "Using Natives in the Garden and Landscape." Karen treated us to an information-packed talk and slide show that was seasoned with her love of gardening and plants. She began by reminding us that our interest in native plants could be for many reasons, but that the one real goal was to re-create habitat. Throughout the program, she showed beautiful photos of plants in pleasing combinations and suggested places to visit to gather ideas of about what works in the landscape. In particular, she recommended visits to Mt Cuba to see a great collection of Piedmont plants and new plants being tested; the Manassas Battlefield to see communities of plants that like to grow together; Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum; and Klingman's Dome in the Smoky Mountains. Karen emphasized that gardeners need to understand their sites, to include the geology of the site, and that they should visit local parks and gardens to get ideas about plants that suit

the environment. She also cautioned gardeners to be careful not to give a plant more care than it needs.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Attendance: Charles Smith, Frances Louer, Phil Louer, June Najjum, Martha Slover, Pat Bowen, Joan Makurat, Ruth Johnston, Cathy Scharff, Linda Stoltz, Pam Lindholm, Diane Flaherty, Leo Stoltz, Rosemary Enright, Amy Hamilton, Nancy Arrington, Jeanne Fowler, Nancy Vehrs, Mary Shaw, Deanna High, Bill Lehman, Jane Lehman, Theresa DeFluri, Karen Waltman, Mary Sherman, Jane Dvonch, Karen Johnson, Helen Walter, Maggie Hart, William Garrett, Tom Attanaro, Joan Patterson, Jeanne Endrikat, Charlotte Cochard, Tiana Camfiord, Rosemary Luckett.

--Charlotte Cochard

NATIVES ARE HOT, HOT, HOT in HORTICULTURAL CIRCLES

Branding Native Plants

American Gardener, magazine for the American Horticultural Society, reports in its March-April 2006 issue that a collaborative effort between the National Wildlife Federation, Prides Corner Farms of

Lebanon, Conn., and North Creek Nurseries of Landenberg, Penn., have created a trademarked program called "American Beauties" in an effort to "brand" a collection of outstanding



native plants. The program will launch in independent garden centers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, with around 100 varieties of native trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses. The American

Beauties will be distinctive through their pale green pots and their placement in the nurseries under "Bird," "Butterfly," "Dry Shade," and "Moist Sun" categories. A portion of the sales will go toward NWF's conservation and education efforts. The plan is to adapt American Beauties collections for different regions of the U.S. See www.abnativeplants.com for more information.

-- Nancy Arrington

RX: Take Two Aspirin Washed Down with Hydrogen Peroxide?

Willow water

Three aspirin dissolved in 4 gallons of water and sprayed on plants every few weeks can improve growth and yields, according to many reports and trial testing. Aspirin is salicylic acid, which plants manufacture to trigger natural defenses against bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Now, *Avant Gardener* newsletter reports that "willow water," made from steeping willow cuttings (*salix*) in water for 48 hours, can serve as a natural substitute for aspirin.

Hope for our native dogwoods?

Common household product hydrogen peroxide is becoming valuable in the garden, reports Thomas Powell, editor of the *Avant Gardener*, the monthly horticultural newsletter. Gardeners claim improved germination when seeds are soaked overnight in one ounce of 3% hydrogen peroxide (the usual drugstore product formula) diluted in one pint of water. "Added to foliar fertilizer sprays or drip irrigation water, it is said to prevent or cure bacterial and fungal diseases, and also helps to supply oxygen to roots in compacted or saturated soil. In Australia, yields of soybeans and squash were greatly

increased when hydrogen peroxide was added to irrigation water." A new product, called ZeroTol, (available from BioSafe Systems, www.biosafesystems.com), a formulation of hydrogen peroxide and other natural ingredients, has been certified for organic growers. The most exciting news about ZeroTol, however, is that "it was used successfully against a severe outbreak of anthracnose on plane trees along a 48-block stretch of Riverside Park in New York."

--*Avant Gardener*, June 2006

Drought Monitor Website

A new drought monitor Web site has been created by the USDA, NOAA, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>). The tracking center is a synthesis of multiple indices, outlooks, and news accounts that represents a consensus of federal and academic scientists.

– *Quill & Trowel*, June 2006

Featherstone Wildlife Refuge

"**Tour of wildlife refuge spotlights local gem**" was the headline for Sunday's *Potomac News & Manassas Journal Messenger* story on the July 8 guided tour of the **Featherstone Wildlife Refuge** sponsored by the Prince William Conservation Alliance. Staff writer Keith Walker reports a turnout of 50-60 people for the opportunity to glimpse the rarely seen 325-acre tract. Charlie Grymes, chairman of the conservation alliance, pointed out that in 1608 Captain John Smith explored the river where Prince William County now stands after the English settled in Jamestown.

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors will be considering a rezoning request from Hazel Land Companies to

develop “Rippon Center,” a 550-apartment high-rise building, 250,000 s.f. of office space, and 27,000 s.f. of retail space on land adjacent to the refuge. The project manager for Rippon Center, Bob Wulff, notes that “people have strong feelings about their public land, but they shouldn’t be worried about his development adversely affecting



the refuge,” and “a 400-foot buffer and the CSX railroad tracks between the development and the refuge will keep the refuge safe.” Larry Underwood, former president and current board member of the **Friends of the Potomac River Refuges**, disagrees: “What flows off of here can’t help but get into the refuge. We don’t know what the impacts are, that’s the problem.” Kim Hosen, executive director of the Prince William Conservation Alliance and one of the three members of the PWC Planning Commission who voted against Rippon Center, said she would have liked a better proposal from Hazel: “First, you really need a good development proposal that acknowledges and considers the benefits and the values of this open land, the flood plain, and the wetlands.”

—Excerpted from *Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger*, Sunday, July 9, 2006: 1-A2.

To read more on Featherstone and to view pictures of the tour, go to Conservation Alliance Web site, www.pwconserve.org.

UPDATE ON FLORA

At the June 19 PWWS Board meeting, Marion Lobstein reported that 50 percent of the Flora species descriptions are completed and that over 1,300 drawings have been done. Marion also explained that for the first edition not every plant will be Illustrated, but that there will be general plates that show representative species.

OPEN HOUSE AT HYL BROOK FARM

Whether you’re a master gardener or a brown thumb, Hyla Brook Farm’s open houses and demonstration classes are a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon. You can round out your day in the country with a visit to one of the nearby wineries, a trip to Gordonsville for lunch or dinner, or just a leisurely drive through the Green Springs Historic Landmark District. Open houses are the last Sunday of the month and run from noon to 5 p.m. The one to two hour demonstration classes begin at 1:30 p.m. and are open to 12 participants. The demonstrations are hands-on so prepare to get your hands dirty. Please reserve your space by sending an email to: nativeplants@hylabrookfarm.com. The open house schedule for the remainder of the 2006 season is:

August 27—Native Trees & Shrubs—Uses & Propagation

September 24—Native Perennials—Uses & Propagation

October 29—Landscaping for Wildlife

Directions: Take Rt. 15 South to Gordonsville Circle. Continue South on Rt. 15 to Boswell’s Tavern. Turn Left on Rt. 22 and go 2.2 miles. Turn Right on Rt. 636, Valentine Mill Road. Go approx. two miles to entrance on right.

—Charlotte Cochard

EVENTS OF NOTE

JULY

Monday, July 17. Dragonflies of Northern Virginia. 7:30 p.m. Prince William Wildflower Society. Free and open to the public. Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Lane, Manassas. See above for details of the program.



Saturday, July 22. "Living Green Energy Fair." Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington, Virginia, 2:00p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Presented

by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. This event will feature interesting and entertaining exhibitors, speakers, and educational activities to help area residents learn how to live more green and to save more green! Exhibits will include electric and hybrid vehicles, home energy innovations, renewable and energy efficient home appliance installation and more. Educational activities will be geared to both adults and children. A concert featuring the contemporary folk artists Laurie Rose Griffith and Peter Mealy will follow the fair at 7:00 p.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Clean Energy Partnership, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, and the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services. *Potomac Overlook Regional Park is located at the end of Marcey Road, off of Military Road, in North Arlington, Virginia. Call 703/528-5406 for directions and more information.*

Saturday, July 29. Summer

Wildflowers of Clark's Crossing Park, Virginia. Audubon Naturalist Society. 9:00 a.m. – noon. Leader: Dr. Stan Shetler. The wet and dry meadow habitats of Clark's Crossing Park, along the W. & O.D. Bike Trail near Vienna, Virginia, are an excellent spot to study the sun-loving wildflowers of late summer. The groups will look for seedbox, square-stemmed monkeyflower, and New York ironweed in the low, moist areas and rose pink and partridge pea on higher ground. Fields conditions will be open sun in tall vegetation. Members, \$32; Nonmembers, \$48

Sunday, July 30. Bees, Butterflies, and Blossoms: The Biology of a Partnership. 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



Audubon Naturalist Society Woodend Sanctuary. Leaders: Cliff Fairweather and Cathy Strager. Observe pollination in

action: plants enticing, trapping, and/or fooling their insect pollinators, while insects exploit floral offerings of nectar and pollen. Members, \$18; Nonmembers, \$25

AUGUST

Thursday, August 3 (7:30–9:30 p.m.) and Saturday, August 5 (full-day field trip) Introduction to the Identification of Grasses. Leader: Cris Fleming. Structure and terminology of grass flowers,

characteristics of the subgroups of the grass family, and identification of some grass species. Great Falls, Virginia. Members, \$35; Nonmembers, \$49.

Wednesday August 9. 2006 Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council Weed Busters

Invasive Plant Workshop featuring Demolition Derby Field Demonstrations. The event will be held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, New Jersey, and is presented in cooperation with the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and the Morris County Park Commission. For information and registration, go to: <http://www.maepcc.org/http://www.arboretumfriends.org/20060809Invasives/brochure.pdf>. Registration is \$50 per person. There is an optional dinner following the workshop that will be held at the arboretum for a separate fee of \$20 (see registration form). *PLEASE NOTE: Hotel reservations must be made by July 17 to get the significantly reduced rate and you need to refer to the Mid-Atlantic EPPC to get that rate. If you have any questions or would like a brochure mailed to you, please contact Jil Swearingen at jil_swearingen@nps.gov.

Sunday, August 13. "Deep Cut Manassas." Walk, 10:00 a.m. – noon



Sponsored by the Piedmont Chapter of the VNPS. The Battlefield meadows are at their best in the heat of August. Bring lots of water. Easy walking.

Contact Toni Crouch for more info: 540-347-1040 or crouchbev@aol.com

Saturday, August 19. Irvine Nature Center Native Plant Seminar and Sale.

Irvine Nature Center, Stevenson, Maryland. Call 410/484-2413 or www.explorenature.org. A one-day program and plant sale sponsored by the Irvine Nature Center outside Baltimore. Registration is \$50 for Irvine members; \$60 for nonmembers. Workshops are extra. Lectures included in the \$60 fee are "Garden Design with Native Plants," by Darrel Morrison, professor at the University of Georgia's School of Environmental Design; "Planting Natives Where They Thrive," with Dick Bir, horticulturist and conservationist from North Carolina State University; and "Creating Wildlife Habitats with Plant Communities and Landscape Features," with Rich Pais, one of the creators of the Maryland Forest Conservation Act. Three post-seminar workshops, which cost \$25 extra and run concurrently, are "Understanding Grass Flowers," with Charles A. Davis; "Wildlife Photography 101," with Middleton Evans; and "Native Orchids of North America," with Rob Griesbach.

Sunday, August 27. Native Trees & Shrubs – Uses & Propagation. Hyla Brook Farm Nursery. See details in notice above.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 16. Butterfly Fest, Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, Virginia. All Day Friends of Green Spring Fundraiser. Co-sponsored by Potowmack Chapter. Schedule as follows: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., "The Saga of the Monarch Butterfly, by Dr. Lincoln Brower, is an illustrated lecture on the annual migration of monarch butterflies from North America to Mexico, one of the

most amazing biological phenomena in the world. Dr. Brower has studied monarchs on their wintering grounds in Mexico since they were discovered there in 1975.

Research Professor of Biology at Sweet Briar College, Professor Brower is currently collaborating with the World



Wildlife Fund-Mexico and the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Foundation to implement a new comprehensive model to protect the major overwintering sites of the monarch butterfly in Mexico. Dr. Brower will regale us with incredible photos and insights into the lives of these fascinating insects and apprise us of conservation issues that affect their survival. 11:00 a.m., Silent Auction fundraiser. 11:00 a.m.--2:00 p.m., "Monarch Magic," a family program on the marvels of monarch metamorphosis with each family getting a monarch caterpillar to raise at home; 11:00—3:00: Potowmack Chapter Native Plant Sale featuring plants for butterflies, with plenty of milkweed and nectar plants for sale. 12:00 p.m.: butterfly tagging demo; 1:00 p.m., "Butterfly Gardening"—A walk through the Greenspring gardens with an expert gardener to learn what plants attract butterflies.

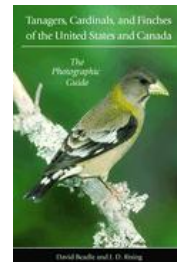
Sunday, September 24. Native Perennials—Uses & Propagation. Hyla Brook Farm Nursery. See details in notice above.

Sunday, September 24. Fall Butterflies of the Occoquan Wildlife Refuge. Audubon Naturalist Society. Full-day field

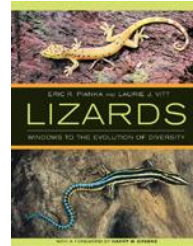
trip with Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason. More than 60 butterfly species have been recorded among the wet meadows, expanses of native grasses, and extensive shoreline of the 644-acre Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. A variety of habitats in the refuge will be explored in the search for late-season butterflies such as Sleepy Orange, Ocola and Clouded Skippers, Buckeyes, Cloudless Sulphurs, and Monarchs. Members, \$28; Nonmembers, \$39

READING CORNER: New Books

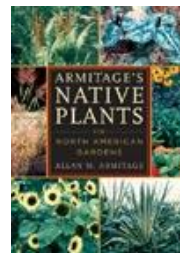
Tanagers, Cardinals, and Finches of the United States and Canada: The Photographic Guide. David Beadle and J.D. Rising. Princeton University Press, 2006. Cloth, \$29.95. The first comprehensive photographic identification guide to tanagers, cardinals, and finches.



Lizards: Windows to the Evolution of Diversity. Eric R. Pianka and Laurie J. Vitt. University of California Press, 2006. Paper, \$29.95. "This engaging, well-researched volume depicts an amazing variety of lacertilian beasts in its lavish illustrations and deftly examines their bizarre lifestyles and behaviors." --



American Scientist



Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens. Allan M. Armitage. Timber Press, 2006. This comprehensive tome contains more than 630 species and cultivars of perennials, biennials, and annuals that are native to the United States, as described by one of the world's foremost horticulturists.

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 8, for the PWS chapter**
annual meeting. Details on the meeting will
be forthcoming in the September-October
issue of *Wild News*.

PWS BOARD	
President	Charles Smith, <i>chrissmith@msn.com</i> 703/361-5125
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Please send or email information to Deanna High,
9613 Heather Green Drive, Manassas, VA 20112;
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VNPS home page: <http://www.vnps.org>

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PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
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NEXT MEETING: July 17, 7:30 p.m. Dragonflies of Northern Virginia, presented by Kevin Monroe
and Tony Robison of the National Audubon Society, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas.
