



Newsletter – Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society

First fieldtrip of the season is:

Sunday, April 22 – Spring Wildflowers Along Crosswicks Creek, Mercer County, NJ

Details on page 7

Spring Issue

April 1, 2012

Report: Philadelphia International Flower Show exhibit

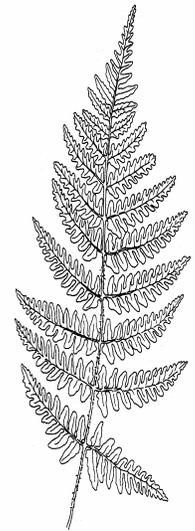
by Tom Tomer

“Fronde Memories” – “Islands of Aloha”. Our challenge this year was to come up with a credible concept that featured Hawaii (must be easily recognizable), could be managed within our resources (no free trips to Maui), and provide an interesting and satisfying experience for our Flower Show visitors. We also wanted to avoid some of the usual clichés that can be expected in this setting. So, early on we decided to forget about going to Hawaii. Instead, we’d bring Hawaii back to the states in the form of an inviting sunroom, in a residence of someone obsessed with tropical ferns and Hawaiian stuff. And, to highlight the contrast we’d depict a winter setting. We wanted to offer the flower show visitors a relaxing moment to enjoy after they schlepped around the convention center floor for a few hours. Based on the unsolicited comments we received from our visitors, it appears we achieved our objective.

The committee that planned and executed the exhibit is the same group that presented our flower shows for the past several years. Their mature experience, high standards, and creativity makes this committee a genuine pleasure to work with. The planning team (in alphabetical order) consisted of, John Albright, Clara and Bill Bondinell, Rose Marie and Jack Schieber, Janice Tomer, and Janet and Tom Whitefield. Those (in addition the committee) who worked on the exhibit at various times were Joanne Ford, Kathy Kline, Ed Rockel, Jean Weiler, Donna Wilhelm, and Karen Whitefield. Once again, Janet Novak verified our plant nomenclature, which was approved by PHS without exception. There’s lots of preliminary work that needs to be complete before we actually start preparing the exhibit in January. That begins about 5 months prior to set-up. It included such things as locating plant suppliers, planters, pots, fixtures, furniture, preparing the booklets, info handouts, and scheduling and corralling the booth sitting crew. I’m especially grateful to the Bondinells, the Whitefields, and Janice (my wife) for their help and



Hanging Fabric



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About DVFWS

The purpose of the DVFWS shall be to encourage the enjoyment of ferns and wildflowers by cultivating and propagating them in the home and garden; by studying them in their wild habitats, gardens, and conservatories; by promoting their conservation and preservation, and by providing a forum for the exchange of information and expertise.

Officers:

PRESIDENT

Clara Bondinell
scalopssp@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

(Open)

TREASURER

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asbjj28@yahoo.com

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Kathy Klein

NEWSLETTER EDITOR / WEB MASTER

John Scott
johnscott302@aol.com

Web site: www.dvfws.org

Membership in the DVFWS is open to anyone who is interested in ferns and wildflowers. Two general membership meetings are held each year and a number of field trips are scheduled each year to areas rich in botanical interest. The newsletter is published quarterly. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome and may be mailed or emailed (johnscott302@aol.com) to the editor. Membership is \$10 for individuals or \$14 for two members of the same address per annum or \$28 and \$39, respectively, for three years.



From the President's Desk

Kudos to our Flower Show Committee!! Our exhibit "Fronde Memories" – "Islands of Aloha". received two awards – 1) The Best Achievement Award for Use of Foliage for Artistic Effect, 2) Philadelphia Horticultural Society Award "BEST IN SHOW – PLANT SOCIETIES". The display represented a tropical oasis, a piece of Hawaii, in a wintry northern clime. Tropical ferns, orchids, and Hawaiian memorabilia prompted many Flower Show goers to want to "move in", to fall asleep in the chair, or to take the entire exhibit home. Another great show and hard work by all involved from the first planning meeting in September to the dismantling of the exhibit on the final day of the Flower Show. Thanks to all who participated and in particular to Tom and Janice Tomer's son Tom and Tom and Janet Whitefield's daughter Karen who assisted with the dismantling. Congratulations again.

Now on to next year's Flower Show with the theme – The British invasion, "The experience will be Brilliant!"

On to our field trips – this year David Lauer our field trip coordinator has collaborated with member Janet Novak and the PA Botanical Club to schedule nine trips in across the greater Delaware Valley. There is something for everyone – try to come out for at least one, if not more, of our field trips. And don't miss the fern identification workshop scheduled for July. A complete list of the trips and contact information for the trip leaders was sent to members with email addresses on file and are also posted in this newsletter and are available on the web site <www.dvfws.org>. We look forward to seeing you on a field trip.

Come November my term of office as president ends. I volunteered as no one was coming forward. Please consider volunteering for this office and or the vice president, as we haven't had one in recent years. I had lots of help from our competent volunteers who do the Flower Show exhibit, obtain speakers for our meetings, provide refreshments at our meeting, and develop and lead our field trips, not to mention our able Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor/Webmaster. DVFWS is 37 years young and we need your help to get us to 40!

Clara Bondinell

Your 2012 Membership directory is being mailed separately.

Don't forget to check the web site < www.dvfws.org > for the color version of the newsletter and last minute changes. If we have your email address we email changes and corrections.

The web master

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

2012 Field Trip Schedule

All field trips begin at 10 AM unless otherwise specified.

For questions, email DML1000@comcast.net

Sunday, April 22 Spring Wildflowers Along Crosswicks Creek, Mercer County, NJ

The floodplain of Crosswicks Creek and adjacent bluffs are good areas for spring wildflowers, such as spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginica*), and wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*). The floodplain may be somewhat muddy, so be prepared. Bring bug spray and a beverage.

Directions: Meet at Bordentown Township's Northern Community Park on Groveville Road, located between Routes 130 and 206. Take Route 130 north (from Bordentown, NJ) or south (toward Bordentown, NJ); turn onto Groveville Road and drive approximately 1/2 mile to the park entrance on the right. Alternatively, the park can be accessed from Route 206 northbound from Bordentown (though not conveniently from 206 southbound, as Route 206 is a divided highway here). About a mile north of the junction with Route 130, turn right onto Groveville Road and drive approximately 1/2 to the park entrance on the left.

Leaders: Janet Novak (botany@indri.org; 215-534-6700) and David Lauer (DML1000@comcast.net)

Saturday, May 5; Nottingham Park Serpentine Barrens, Chester Co., PA

Nottingham Park is on one of the largest serpentine barrens in Pennsylvania. In addition to observing the spectacular spring wildflowers there, including *Phlox subulata* and *Cerastium arvense* v. *villosum*, we will examine the less showy but unique flora of the grasslands and woodlands including a number of uncommon and rare grasses, sedges, trees, and shrubs. Bring lunch.

Directions: From the north, take the Route #1 bypass to Nottingham, exiting at the Route #272 interchange. At the first traffic light (0.1) mile, turn right on Herr Drive, then right on Old Baltimore Pike, then right again on Park Road. After crossing over Route #1 go approximately 0.8 miles to the main entrance to the park. We will meet near the plantings. Good walking shoes are recommended.

Leaders: Janet Ebert, Jack Holt (jack@mobilelifts.com, 610-459-0585)

Sunday, May 6: The Genus *Amelanchier*, Long Pond, Monroe Co., PA, A joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

The genus *Amelanchier* includes native small trees and shrubs known as Juneberry or shadbush. They have brilliant spring flowers and provide an excellent fruit for wildlife. We will explore the Nature Conservancy's Long Pond Preserve and nearby areas where we should see several species, including hopefully *A. bartramiana*, and numerous morphs, including perhaps some previously undocumented entities. The birding at Long Pond Preserve is exceptional, so bring your binoculars, and be prepared for some wet walking. The trip leader is Dr. Michael Burgess of Morris Arboretum, a specialist in this genus.

Directions: From Philadelphia, travel north to exit 284 on interstate 80 using either the Pennsylvania Turnpike Northeast Extension or Route 33 North from I-78 between Easton and Allentown. If arriving at I-80 from the Turnpike, head east. If arriving at I-80 from Route 33, head west. From Interstate 80, take exit 284 (PA Route 115). Turn south on 115 towards Effort. After 3.1 miles, bear left at the Long Pond and Pocono Raceway signs onto Long Pond Road. Proceed on Long Pond Road 3.9 miles to a T-intersection and turn right onto Kuhnenbeaker Road. After approx. 1.5 miles drive over a bridge and park immediately on your right.

Leader: Michael Burgess; shadbush76@gmail.com 267-273-8838

(Events, continued on page 8)

We Welcome These New Members:

NEW:

Mark Brownlee
Quakertown, PA 18951

Thomas Edward
and Mary Artley Werner
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234

Bunny Ehmer
Wilmington, DE 19808

Lorry Filson
Quakertown, PA 18951

B. Eliza Hammer
Pennington, NJ 08534

Anne O'Donnell
Philadelphia, PA 19129

Elizabeth Ujj
Trenton, NJ 08611

REJOINED:

Lois Anne Garrecht
Souderton, PA 18964

Dorrell Biddle
Palmyra, NJ 08065

(Events, continued from page 7)

Sunday, May 13; Learn the Spring Wildflowers at Sourland Mountain Preserve (Somerset County, NJ) A joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

This trip is for people who are just getting started in botany or who aren't familiar with the plants of this area. Sourland Mountain is an excellent starting point, since it offers a large number of wildflowers. As we identify the wildflowers, we'll review some of the basic methods of plant identification. We'll also review several field guides for this area and discuss their advantages and disadvantages. The trails at Sourland Mountain are somewhat steep and rocky, so wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots.

Directions: Meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead parking lot. From New Jersey Route 206 Northbound: Follow Route 206 through Princeton and Montgomery. Traveling up a small ramp, make a left onto Route 601. Follow Route 601 for a half mile, and make a right turn onto East Mountain Road by Carrier Foundation. Drive one mile, then you will see the Sourland Mountain Preserve entrance sign on the left.

Leader: Janet Novak, botany@indri.org; 215-534-6700 (cell)

Saturday June 9: Crow's Nest Preserve, Chester Co. PA. A joint trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club.

Crow's Nest preserve is a 600 acre tract that is close to French Creek State Park in PA and that falls within what has been called the "Big Woods." in that part of the state west of Philadelphia. It has been preserved by the Natural Lands trust and contains a wide variety of habitats in addition to mature forest. The Crow's Nest Preserve, one of over 40 preserves owned by the Natural Lands Trust of PA, is composed of some 600-plus acres in the 73,000 acre "Hopewell Big Woods."

Directions: From the King of Prussia area/Philadelphia, PA region, take Route 202 south to the Route 401 exit. On Route 401 continue west, on through the Route 113 intersection, continuing on to its intersection with Route 100. Now turn right and north onto Route 100, going several miles to its intersection with Route 23. At the Routes 100 and 23 intersection, turn left and west. You will go about 6 miles, looking for the Warwick Campground sign at Trythall Road and Route 23. Before seeing the campground sign you will pass through the small town of Knauertown on Route 23, going uphill to the campground sign. At Trythall Rd., turn right and proceed a short distance to Harmoneyville Road. At this intersection turn left, and very shortly you will see Piersol Rd on your right. Turn in there, passing a barn and house to quickly see a parking lot with a Natural Lands Trust sign. Pull in there and walk from the parking lot to the BARN. Come in. We will meet there first for a quick outline of this field trip.

Leader: Paul Schubert (paulschubert88@yahoo.com; 610-328-2759).

Saturday June 16; Bog plants of the NJ Pine Barrens A joint trip with the Native Plant Special Interest Group of the Hardy Plant Society

The New Jersey Pine Barrens is famous for pygmy pine forests, but the highest plant diversity (and the most beautiful flowers) are in its bogs. This is your chance to see these native bog plants... without getting your feet wet. We will start by visiting two wetlands in the area of Chatsworth, New Jersey. The trip is timed for peak bloom of the orchids *Pogonia ophioglossoides* and *Calopogon tuberosus*. We'll also see sundews, pitcher plants, a few clubmosses, and the famous curlygrass fern (*Schizaea pusilla*). This "wild" part of the trip will be easy walking on good trails and boardwalks. The total walking will be less around a mile. For the "tame" part, we will visit the private garden of Bill Smith. Bill has a stunning collection of bog plants from eastern North America: orchids, every species of pitcher plant, and some rare and little-known beauties such as Plymouth rose gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*) and bog asphodel (*Narthecium americanum*). If you wish, you can bring a picnic lunch to eat at Bill's. Ticks and chiggers are common in the Pine Barrens, so come prepared with bug spray. Also bring sunscreen, a beverage, and, if you like, a lunch.

Directions: Meet outside the office of Brendan Byrne State Forest. From Pennsylvania or western New Jersey, get onto state highway 70 eastbound (exit 34A from I-295). Continue to follow 70 east through the traffic circle where routes 70 and 206 intersect. After 7.8 miles, you'll come to the second traffic circle; take the first exit from the circle onto 72 east. After 1 mile, turn left into the entrance to Brendan Byrne State Forest (marked by signs saying "New Jersey Fire Service Division B Headquarters" and "Brendan T. Byrne State Forest"). After 0.4 miles, take the first right, then almost immediately turn left into the Forest Service office parking lot. Please sign up with the leader,

Leader: Janet Novak: botany@indri.org or 215-534-6700.

Saturday July 7, 2012; Workshop: Basic Fern Identification. A joint workshop with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

In this workshop, you can learn to identify the most common ferns of our area. We will go over the characteristics that distinguish fern species, using fresh fronds as examples. We will also work on identifying ferns in the field by taking a walk along the Wissahickon Creek, and area that offers a good variety of fern species. No prior experience with fern identification is required. No equipment is nec-

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(Events, continued from page 8)

essary, but if you have them, a fern field guide and a hand lens will be helpful. If you have any ferns you want identified, bring a frond. The workshop will end at approximately 1 PM.

Registration: The fee for the workshop is \$10 for members of the Philadelphia Botanical Club or Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society and \$20 nonmembers. Participation will be limited to the first 20 registrants, so register as soon as possible with the leader, but before July 1.

Directions: Cedars House in Fairmount Park in northwest Philadelphia. Directions will be sent upon registration.

Leader: Janet Novak, 215-248-2642 or botany@indri.org

Saturday July 21: Fern Garden tours Leaders: Jack and Rosemarie Schieber

We will meet at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve at 10 AM. At 11:45 we will drive to the gardens of Jack and Rosemarie Schieber where we will view their extensive fern and wildflower collection and have lunch. Please sign up in advance with the Schiebers

Directions: (to Bowman's Hill): The Preserve is situated on the north side of Bowman's Hill, approximately 2.5 miles south of New Hope, PA at 1635 River Road (PA Rte 32).

Leaders: Jack and Rosemarie Schieber 215-357-3720 and David Lauer (DML1000@comcast.net)

Sunday, August 19th; Southern Bucks County coastal plain forest; Delhaas Woods

Delhaas woods, adjacent to Silver Lake County Park and located east of the former Delhaas High School, is one of the largest remaining stands of coastal plain forest in Pennsylvania. The trip will be led by Lauren Spitz, who recently completed the native plants of PA internship at Morris Arboretum and who studied the flora of this tract extensively during her internship

Directions: Meeting place will be the parking lot of Silver Lake Park Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road | Bristol, PA 19007, on the east side of Bath Road just north of route 13. A map can be downloaded at

http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=342.

Leaders: Lauren Spitz lauren.spitz@rutgers.edu and by David Lauer (DML1000@comcast.net; 215-764-6039).

Saturday August 25; Bartrams Garden, Philadelphia, PA. This is a joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

Bartram's Garden is located on the banks of the Schuylkill River in West Philadelphia, and was the home of John Bartram, royal botanist to King George III, and his son William. The Bartrams corresponded with and entertained some of the most important scientific and political figures of the 18th century in our own country and abroad. It is a miracle that the house and grounds have survived, and that both are being wonderfully preserved and interpreted today. *Franklinia* should be in bloom. We will be guided through the grounds by Joel Fry, Curator at the Gardens.

Directions: We will meet at the administrative building (first building on the left when entering the garden). The garden is accessible by public transportation via the 36 trolley to 54th and Lindbergh Ave (then cross railroad bridge to Garden entrance on first left.) For additional driving directions, please see: http://www.bartramsgarden.org/?page_id=21

Leaders: Joel Fry, Curator; 215-729-5281, jfry@bartramsgarden.org and David Hewitt hewittd@sas.upenn.edu)

Saturday, December 8, Fulshaw Craeg Preserve, Montgomery Co., PA

The Fulshaw-Craeg Preserve in southern Montgomery County features lovely scenery and a diverse flora. Many of the plants are still identifiable in winter from their distinctive fruits or other features. We will have a chance to try to identify a wide variety of plants in the preserve's various habitats, which include boulder field, wet meadow, dry meadow, and woods. Because we will have to ford a creek, I recommend wearing wading boots or waterproof hiking boots and perhaps bringing a hiking stick. The trip will last until around 1 PM. This is a joint trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club. Heavy rain or snow may cancel the trip; any cancellation will be posted on the PB club's field trip page (www.philbotclub.org/field_trips.html) by 7 AM on the day of the trip.

Directions: Meet at Unami Creek Park in Summeytown. From the Philadelphia area, take 476 north to exit 31. At the exit, bear right to get onto highway 63 west towards Harleysville. Drive 8.2 miles (into Summeytown), then turn right at the fork onto Geryville Pike. Drive 0.2 miles, then turn right onto Swamp Creek Road. Unami Creek Park will be almost immediately on your right; park in the parking area along the road. We will carpool the short distance to the preserve.

(Flower Show, continued from page 5)



The master



Karen – Tom – Donna



Grooming – Kathy and RoseMarie

management of these items. Finally, we want to thank John Albright for the use of his studio and for his unselfish artistic leadership and direction. John continues to set high standards for our exhibits.

In addition to those mentioned above, the committee is grateful to all who assisted by staffing the display during the show. We appreciate your efforts in supporting the Flower Show objective of encouraging visitors to consider DVFWS membership. The results were better than usual this year. According to the information I received from Alice-Blake Simonson, eight new applications for membership came in as a result of the show. Oh my! I almost forgot to thank Alice-Blake, our faithful treasurer, who has paid the bills and kept track of our finances since way before I became a member of this organization. We also want to express our thanks to all the members who loaned us Hawaiian memorabilia. We received books, birds, bamboo pots, a pressed fern, and much more. It all worked to create the relaxing atmosphere we wanted to achieve.

We also want to recognize our official flower show partners: The Hill Company, *fine outdoor furniture* (Chestnut Hill), Primex Garden Supply (Glenside), Meadowbrook Farms, Garden Accents (Conshohocken), and E. P. Henry. We simply could not have achieved these results without their contribution.

Obviously, this endeavor is the work of a substantial number of people, many of whom gave unselfishly of their time and energy for several months. And so, it's my privilege to express the gratitude of the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society to those who helped for a job well done. I think that's particularly appropriate in view of the two awards we received this year: 1) The Best Achievement Award for Use of Foliage for Artistic Effect, 2) Philadelphia Horticultural Society Award "BEST IN SHOW – PLANT SOCIETIES".

(Flower Show, continued on page 11)

(Flower Show, continued from page 10)

The Judges score card and comments for Best in Show are noted below.

Next year, no more volcanoes, hula skirts, or surfboards. PHS news release indicates “in 2013, the Philadelphia International Flower Show prepares for a British Invasion”.

So, we’re off to the formal gardens of the UK.

Another challenge?

You bet – here we go again!

With my sincerest thanks to all who helped,

Tom D. Tomer, Chairman



Judges Comments and Results – 2012

“The exhibit suggests a cozy domesticity on a cold wintry day and invites the viewer in.

“The structural accessories artfully complement the plant materials”.

“Excellent integration of the concept with the execution”.

Final Score: 97 –

DEDUCTIONS: SEE SIDEBAR

CATEGORY		Deduct
Is the Idea novel and imaginative?	Yes	
Does the exhibit convey exceptional design principles?	Yes	
Does the use of plants and structural accessories enhance the exhibit?	Yes	
Is there an effective “eye-flow” or contour to the exhibit?	Yes	
Is color carefully considered and effectively used?	Yes	
Is texture carefully considered and effectively used?	Yes	
Is form carefully considered and effectively used?	Yes	
Are the plants well-related to each other as well as to the other elements of the exhibit?		1
Are the foliage and flowers clear and without blemish?	Yes	
Has grooming been done carefully?	Yes	
Are the plants and flowers of superior quality?	Yes	
Is the educational impact on the visitor easily understood?	Yes	
Do all the components support the exhibitor’s intent?		1
Does labeling clearly, but unobtrusively identify the plants?		1
Does the exhibit provide an effective “learning moment” for the visitor?	Yes	
EXTRA CREDIT		
Does the exhibit deliver an environmental message		
Is the exhibit interactive		
TOTAL		3
DEDUCTIONS:		



Newsletter — Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society

John Scott, Editor
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Mertztown, PA 19539

First Class Mail

Naturalist's
Code

Move nothing.
Step on nothing but the path.
Take nothing but photographs.



Climbing Fern
Lygodium palmatum