



Newsletter – Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society

AWARDS



Special Achievement Award for a unique feature or design element

Massachusetts Horticultural Society Gold Medal to the Plant Society exhibit demonstrating the best use of design.

“The Fox and Fern” ~

Flower Show Report ~ 2013

About 9:30, Sunday evening on March 10th we make our final descent on the freight elevator at the convention center and the 2013 flower show was over. For the committee, the show began at a planning session last summer where we kicked around concepts for the exhibit. “It’s got to be UK, England, ‘Brilliant’, bucolic, pastoral, Victorian”. We finally settled on a pub with a patio dining area. And so the “Fox and Fern” was born and another DVFWS flower show was in progress.

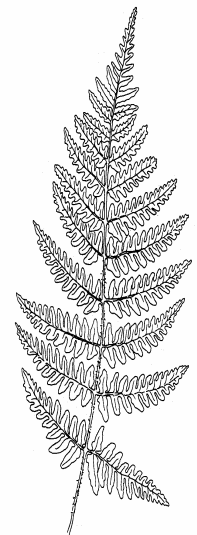
The composition of the flower show committee hasn’t changed much over the past several years. That’s good.

The members know what needs to be done and how to do it very well. Every year they willingly assume the various responsibilities required. They are a pleasure to work with and deserve our sincerest appreciation and commendation.

For those who may be new to the society, here’s a brief introduction to the committee members (in alpha order) and some highlights of what they do.

John Albright is our muralist, artistic coach, teacher, and encourager. The exhibit backgrounds John has produced demonstrate highest standards of design and excellence in the flower show. **Bill Bondinell** manages the procuring and “forcing” of our plant material. This is a critical responsibility because the final results of the exhibit depend on the quality and quantity of our plant material. **Clara Bondinell** manages the staffing requirements for our exhibit. Clara not only ensures that the booth is always staffed, but distributes the entry passes and other required info to the booth sitters. Bill and Clara also prepare the membership application / activity handout and the “how to grow fern” brochures. **Janet Novak**, our nomenclature specialist, verifies the integrity of the plant list required by PHS. Janet ensures that every Genus, species, cultivar, and common name is current and accurate. **Jack** and **Rose Marie Schieber** are veterans of many flower shows and bring their quality expertise to the process, whether it be grunt work or identifying obscure ferns. **Janice Tomer** helped with the exhibit design, rounding up display items, and grooming, preparation, and installation of the plant material. **Janet Whitefield** has assisted in practically every area of the exhibit for several years. But, this year she did all that on one leg while recovering from a knee injury. **Tom Whitefield** appears in most of the photos I took during prep and set-up. That’s because he is on site more often. Tom is always willing to work in the studio or take on additional projects at home when needed. All the carpentry for the exhibit was built in Tom’s workshop, including the stone step for the door and the pub sign.

Spring Issue
April 24, 2013



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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.

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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 Computer

Spring Will Come, The Calendar Says So...

Hello DVFWS members,

We all have been anxiously waiting for the blood root to appear with this slow arriving spring.

On April 3, I went out with the Wednesday Botany Walks in Berks Group, led by Dr. Susan Munch, on a quest for marsh marigolds and Hepatica in flower. We were hard pressed to find color on the marigolds, but we did find hepatica in various color shades. Trekking around in a marsh in the Oley valley at least got us out of the house and our noses in the leaf litter. On my ride home from a meeting tonight, the sound of spring peepers filled the air with their peeps.

Another sure sign of spring is our DVFWS Schedule of Field Trips. Thanks to Dave Lauer for the wonderful assortment of trips and workshops that we can partake of. Much planning has gone into this schedule so please optimize your ability to participate. A request to let the Leader know of your plans to join the field trip is always welcome, and may guide you to any immediate changes in the plans.

I'm looking forward to the Vermont trip in August. Hopefully, the weather will be cooler up in the hills.

With this late spring it gives us a perspective in comparison to the early spring of 2012. Each year, Mother Earth gets to call the shots.

See you out on the trails.

Karen Mohn

President

(Flower Show – continued from page 5)

Finally, we need to mention **Alice-Blake Dobson Simonson**, our treasurer. Alice-Blake has faithfully kept tract of our revenue and paid the bills, for many years.

Most everyone on the committee worked on *preparing* the exhibit at the studio, *setting-up* at the convention center, *staffing* the booth, and *taking-down* on the final Sunday. In addition to those from the committee, we want to thank the others who pitched in; they include Joanne Ford, Karen Frazier, Kathy Klein, John Klein, Karen Mohn, Tom W. Tomer, Jean Weiler, and Donna Wilhelm.

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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

2013 Field Trip Schedule **

Please note that all field trips begin at 10 AM at the appointed meeting place, unless otherwise stated in the description. Some trip leaders request that you notify them that you will be participating, as noted in the trip descriptions. Please feel free to provide feedback or comments that may enhance our offerings to the coordinator, David Lauer, at DML1000@comcast.net

If anyone is interested in carpooling, please let me know at the above email address at least 2 weeks before the trip, and include your name, contact information and place where you are located. I will send out a trip announcement the week before each trip, and will include the information within that announcement of anyone seeking partners to carpool with.

Many of these trips are being held jointly with the Philadelphia Botanical Club (PBC). The PBC will be hosting additional trips, so feel free to check their website (http://darwin.ansp.org/hosted/botany_club/field_trips.html) for additional opportunities.

April 13 (Saturday): Shenk's Ferry, Lancaster County, PA

This is an informal trip to one of the best local concentrations of spring wildflowers. As described on PPL's website, "Shenk's Ferry Wildlife Preserve is one of the most impressive wildflower areas in the eastern United States and certainly one of the most popular natural locations in Lancaster County. PPL takes pride in preserving the glen as a wildflower sanctuary. Located just north of Pequea along the Susquehanna River in southern Lancaster County, the 50-acre glen surrounds Grubb Run off of Green Hill Road. The main wildflower trail is approximately 1 mile long and follows Grubb Run along easy walking path on fairly flat terrain. At least 73 species of flowers bloom from mid-March until the end of May. More than 60 other species of flowers bloom during the summer and fall. Some of the more common flowers include Dutchman's breeches, wild geranium, wild ginger, Virginia bluebells, mayapple, trillium and spring beauty." This trip is informal, and joint with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

Directions: Go south through Lancaster on Route 272, and then southwest on New Danville Pike (Route 324), and go through the town of Conestoga. At the post office veer left onto River Corner Road. In 1.3 miles you will cross River Road and the name changes to Shenks Ferry Road. At the "T" intersection with Green Hill Road, turn left, head downhill and under the railroad through the tunnel. About 200 feet ahead, bear left and drive to the parking areas near the stream crossing.

Leader: David Lauer, DML1000@comcast.net, 215-622-0852

April 21st (Sunday): Trillium sp. Collection, Clarksboro, Gloucester Co., NJ, 1 – 5 PM

*Please note the time for this trip. This is a joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club to view John Gyer's collection of Trillium species at his "Fern Hill" Property. John, one of our long-term members, has been gardening at Fern Hill since 1960. This garden is dedicated to the propagation of Trilliums and other species. The oldest propagation area is below a seep and is bordered by Ostrich Fern and a showy Asian skunk cabbage, *Lysichiton camtschatcensis*. A grove of white pine planted in 1966 houses a patch of self-sown *Cypripedium acaule* in the accumulated pine duff. A stream provides a setting for Tibetan hellebores. Away from the stream, pecan trees are a canopy for mosses and crane-fly orchids. The slope toward the house is a moss garden planted with blueberry bushes and *Magnolias (grandiflora & asheii)* and dove tree. There is a deciduous azalea border with hollies interspersed (yellow-berried and red). There is an old silted in pond—now dry—that was the site of Jessup's Mill in the mid 1800's. Up toward the house lies the first efforts at woodland gardening - now mainly spring bulbs with *Cyclamen* and a nice growth of 3 species of Oriental ginger. Please note that this is NOT a manicured display garden. Some storm damage etc. from Hurricane Sandy may be in evidence and should be politely ignored!*

Directions: The address is 243 Jessup Mill Road, Clarksboro NJ 08020. From the Commodore Barry Bridge take the first exit labeled for Camden - North on Route 130. This will merge into I-295. Go to Exit 18 of I-295. At the light at the top of the ramp turn right, then take the next right onto Cohawkin Road. Go through Clarksboro, pass a large cemetery on the right, and then across the NJ Turnpike. IMMEDIATELY across the turnpike turn hard left onto Jessup Mill Road. At the bottom of the hill on the right there will be a gravel drive flanked by an American flag and a post with barely visible numbers 243 but no mailbox. There is a deer fence about 100 feet in from the road. Go to the top of the drive and park anywhere there is room.

Heading South on I-295, take exit 18 and refer the the directions above.

Leader: David Lauer, DML1000@comcast.net, 215-622-0852. Please email me if you plan to attend this trip.

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April 27 (Saturday): Introduction to Spring Flora, Crosswicks Creek, Mercer County, NJ

This trip is for people who are just getting started in botany or who aren't familiar with the plants of this area. The floodplain of Crosswicks Creek and adjacent bluffs are good areas for spring wildflowers, such as spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), Virginia bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginica*), and wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*). As we identify the wildflowers, we'll review some basic methods of plant identification. The floodplain may be somewhat muddy, so be prepared. A joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

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. A joint trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

Leader: Janet Novak, janet@indri.org; cell 215-534-6700

May 11 (Saturday): Franklin Parker Preserve, Chatsworth, Burlington Co., NJ

Car caravan tour of the Franklin Parker Preserve, a tract of land that includes 9200 acres of natural forests, a segment of the Wading River, various stream corridors, reservoirs, open wetlands, restored wetlands in former agricultural areas, maintained upland meadows, and shrublands. It contains passive use nature trails and several nature observation platforms. There is an extensive road network, a former airstrip, agricultural outbuildings, and small sand, clay, and gravel excavation sites. The preserve is surrounded by large contiguous areas of mostly state forestland, except for large cranberry farms and pine plantations to the south, and the village of Chatsworth in its center. The preserve is closed to motorized traffic by the general public. We will drive to at least a half dozen sites and explore these on foot. Most of the vegetation communities will be characteristic Pine Barrens. Others are of interest because they represent various stages of a restoration plan that is being implemented in former commercial cranberry bogs. A joint trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

Directions: From the intersection of County Rt. 563 and County Rt. 532 (the center of Chatsworth), go west on Rt. 532 about eight tenths of a mile. The entrance to FPP will be on your left.

Leader: Russell Juelg, russell@njconservation.org, 609-654-6455

May 18 (Saturday): Bartram's Garden and American Society of Botanical Artists Exhibition, Philadelphia, PA

This is a return trip to view the flora of Bartram's Garden, "America's first botanical garden," and home to John and William Bartram, under the guidance of the Curator Joel Fry. A highlight of the day will be a visit to an exhibition prepared by the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) of contemporary botanical art inspired by the Bartrams. See the web site: www.asba-art.org/exhibitions/bartram.

Directions: From the west, via I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway): Travel east and south through Center City to Exit 346B, Gray's Ferry Avenue. Bear left on exit ramp and turn left at light on to 34th Street/University Avenue. At next light turn right on Gray's Ferry Avenue and cross Schuylkill River. Take first left on to Paschall Avenue. Turn left at next light on to 49th Street and around bend on to Gray's Avenue. Follow trolley tracks and bear left at fork on to Lindbergh Boulevard. Just beyond 54th Street sign and immediately after crossing railroad bridge make sharp left turn into entrance, which is not visible until after crossing bridge. By public transit: take SEPTA 36 Trolley from Center City or University City to 54th & Lindbergh Blvd. Walk across railroad bridge and turn left to entrance for Bartram's Garden

Leaders: Joel Fry, 215-729-5281 x106, jfry@bartramsgarden.org and Robin Jess, rjess5928@aol.com

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We welcome these new members:

Dr. & Mrs. Tony and Molly Picaro— Beach Haven NJ

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Sunday, June 16 (Sunday): Glen Onoko, Jim Thorpe, Lehigh Gorge, Carbon Co., PA

This is a particularly rugged area for hiking, so be prepared. It is not for the frail or faint of heart. We will ascend the moist, cool, hemlock-shaded ravine of Glen Onoko to emerge on the xeric Broad Mountain plateau, covered with an acidic forest and ericaceous understory. Attractions include *Huperzia porophila*, *Asplenium montanum*, and *Drosera sp.* growing on sandstone ledges. We will also look for *Streptopus amplexifolius* (twisted stalk). *Asplenium bradleyi* may be a possibility. For those who are not up to the strenuous climb, a stroll north along the rail-trail to enjoy some of the ferns in the retaining wall is possible. A joint trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

Directions: Directions: Take the Northeast Extension (476) north from Philadelphia. Leave 476 at exit 74 (Mahoning Valley) and go left onto US 209 south (toward Lehighton). Follow 209 to Jim Thorpe. Immediately after driving through Jim Thorpe (stoplight, railroad station), turn right on Route 903 (River Street) and cross the bridge over the Lehigh River. Go up the hill on 903, and where 903 turns right as North St at the top of the hill, stop and go straight on Main Street. Follow Main Street down into a hollow, ascend, and turn left when you see the sign for Lehigh Gorge State Park. Follow the park road along the river and across it to a loop and parking at the end.

Leader: Chris Hoess, choess@stwing.upenn.edu, phone: (267) 918-6803.

July 7 (Sunday): Workshop - Botanical Printing

This is a new type of workshop for us. We will spend 2 ½ hours with Laura Bethmann, author of *Hand Printing From Nature*, learning the art of making prints of ferns and wildflowers from fresh specimens

Leader: Laura Bethmann, laurabethmann@comcast.net, 609-296-7219

July 20 (Saturday): Crow's Nest Preserve, Chester Co. & Berks Co., PA

One of an ongoing series of trips over several years to complete a comprehensive botanical portrait of this Natural Lands Trust (NLT) preserve in the French Creek area. Crow's Nest is one of over 40 preserves owned by NLT, is composed of some 600-plus acres, and has been managed by for about 17 years with removal of invasive species, deer population control and fire management. It is considered to be part of the "Hopewell Big Woods," an area of about 73,000 contiguous acres of woodland. A joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club

Leader: Paul Schubert (email: paulschubert88@yahoo.com) & phone number: 610-701-8685.

August 3 (Saturday): Fern Identification Workshop: Beyond the Basics -- Fairmount Park

In this workshop, we tackle the identification of some moderately difficult ferns. A particular focus will be the small rock-loving ferns, such as *Woodsia obtusa*, *Pellaea* species, and *Cystopteris* species. We will also cover distinctions between *Dryopteris* species, though we will not cover *Dryopteris* hybrids in any detail. Participants are expected to have a grasp on the basics of fern identification, such as knowing where to find sori and being able to distinguish the common genera (e.g. *Athyrium*, *Dryopteris*, *Osmunda*). The workshop will start indoors, where we'll study fern fronds. We will then proceed into Fairmount Park to see the ferns in their habitats. Bring a hand lens. If you have any ferns you want identified, bring a frond. The workshop will end at approximately 1 PM.

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

August 9 through 12 (Friday through Monday): Ferns of Vermont

This is a joint trip with the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society, and comes one week after Janet Novak's fern workshop. Here's a chance to test your pteridophyte mettle! Vermont has a diverse fern flora (see Mike Rosenthal's web site: <http://floraofvermont.com/list.cshml>)

Leaders: Jack Schieber, jaroma4@verizon.net, 215-357-3720, David Lauer DML1000@comcast.net, 215-622-0852, and Mike Rosenthal, michael@msrosenthal.com

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August 24 (Saturday): Sadsbury Woods Preserve, Chester Co., PA

This 513 acre Natural Lands Trust preserve includes one of the largest remaining unfragmented woodlands in Chester County. It is an important habitat for interior nesting birds and small mammals, and has an excellent variety of ferns and flowering plants. For additional information and a trail map, go to: <http://www.natlands.org/preserves-to-visit/list-of-preserves/sadsbury-woods-preserve/>

Leader: David Lauer, 215-622-0852 (cell) and DML1000@comcast.net

September 8 (Sunday): Milford Bluffs, Hunterdon County, NJ

We will visit the Thomas F. Breden Preserve at Milford Bluffs, across the river from Upper Black Eddy, PA. View a map of the preserve at <http://nj.gov/dep/njnlt/maps/tfbreden.jpg>. As described on their website, the preserve is famous for its breath-taking views of the Delaware River and beyond

Leader: Doug Kligman, 484-432-0794 (cell)

September 15 (Sunday): Plant families in the field; Delhaas Woods, Bucks County PA

If you never learned the characteristics of the plant families—or if you need to relearn them after the recent taxonomic changes—this trip is for you. Using examples found in the lovely coastal-plain site of Delhaas Woods, the leader will demonstrate how to identify some important plant families, emphasizing the Angiosperms (flowering plants).

Leader: Alina Freire-Fierro, freirefierro@ansp.org, 267-231-7078 (cell).

September 28 (Saturday): A Bartram Tour Through The New Jersey Pine Barrens

This tour will follow the explorations of colonial botanist John Bartram in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Bartram's more distant trips to New York, New England, Pittsburgh, Florida and the South are better known, but Bartram collected plants in southern New Jersey and the Pine Barrens from the beginning of his work as a botanist, making collections from Egg Harbor, Cape May, and "the sandy barren deserts" of the Pine Barrens, today called The Plains

Leaders: Joel T. Fry, Curator, Bartram's Garden, 215-729-5281 x106, jfry@bartramsgarden.org and Bill Cahill, wcahill7@gmail.com, 609-694-4400.

October 4 - 6 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday): John Burroughs' Slabsides and the Esopus Gorge, West Park, NY.

John Burroughs was a prolific writer in the late 19th and early 20th century and he popularized the study of botany and other aspects of nature for common folk in the post civil war era.

Leader: David Lauer, DML1000@comcast.net, 215-622-0852.

December 8 (Sunday): Winter Botany; Spring Mountain and the Perkiomen Trail, Montgomery County, PA

Spring Mountain is a small peak composed of diabase, a volcanic rock that gives rise to a rich soil and, often, a rich flora. We'll go through meadow and rocky woods, seeing what we can identify in winter.

Directions: From Schwenksville, take route 73 north. At the edge of town, turn right on Park Ave./Schwenksville Road (at the light with Ortino's Restaurant on the corner). After 0.3 mile, make a sharp left onto Cedar Road. Take 1st left into a large parking lot.

Leader: Janet Novak, janet@indri.org; cell 215-534-6700

** The latter field trips will have the complete listing in future newsletters. The full schedule is on the website.

Obituary from the Richmond newspaper.

SWELL, Nancy Caroline Smith, of Richmond, died June 30, 2008. She was born August 25, 1927 in Salem, W.Va. She received her B.S. from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1949 and M.S. in Microbiology from George Washington University in 1950. She worked at the VA hospital in Martinsburg, W.Va. and taught at VCU. She brought her love of the mountains and native plants with her from West Virginia to Richmond in 1964. She was involved with garden clubs, botanical gardens and plant societies in the U.S. and in England. Much of her life was spent in her beautiful garden growing and propagating azaleas, ferns and other shady perennials. The Ghost fern and the Pocono Pink azalea have been credited to her and are enjoyed by many. She and her husband, Leon, operated a gardening business, Swell Azaleas, for 23 years. She is survived by her loving husband, Dr. Leon Swell, to whom she was married for 57 years. She is also survived by three daughters, Janet Swell of Travelers Rest, S.C., Barbara Swell of Asheville, N.C., Laura Wright of Montpelier, Va.; their spouses, and eight grandchildren. Family and friends are invited to celebrate her life at their home and garden on Thursday, July 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. Donations may be made in her name to the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Editors Note: *Nancy and Leon were long term members of DVFWS. When they moved to Richmond, they maintained their membership in the Society. They entertained us on a Society field trip to Richmond. They had a wonderful fern and wildflower garden. One of her finds in their garden was the pained lady fern given to John Mickel and eventually was distributed as Athyrium X "Ghost". She was active at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. As my sister-in-law lived in Richmond, I visited the Swells several times.*

(Flower Show – continued from page 6)

We also want to *thank those members who donated plants from their gardens.* They are Nancy and John DeMarrais, Roselynn and David Malarek, Rose Marie and Jack Schieber, and Janet and Tom Whitefield. Because we forced mature plants from our members' gardens, the yield was substantially higher than in previous years. We had more than enough plant material which enabled us to achieve the abundant look we wanted. I think we were all impressed with the size and quality of the plants from this group. I would especially note the Dixie Wood Fern (*Dryopteris x australis*) and the Robust Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas 'Robusta'*) from the Schiebers garden.

Finally, we want to *thank our booth sitters.* It is reassuring for the committee to know that there's always someone on site when the show is open to greet the visitors and encourage them to join up and take a hike with us.

So, after all that, how successful was the show this year? Based on the comments we heard at the exhibit, "The Fox and Fern" was well received. But, did we actually create interest in ferns from our visitors? PHS seems to think so. They presented us with a "Special Achievement Award" for *"the best achievement in creating a convivial setting incorporating plants"*. I should note that all five of the Plant Societies received the same PHS award with a commendation appropriate to their display. Also note, PHS no longer awards a "Best in Show" for the category of Plant Societies. PHS has streamlined the judging categories into two groups: *Landscape major exhibit and Floral major exhibit.*

In addition to the PHS commendation, we received an award from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, their Gold Metal for *"the plant society exhibit demonstrating the best use of design"*. That's significant and it affirms the effort that our members and friends put into this exhibit.

We also got some international recognition through Jack Schieber. Jack has personal contact with our fern-lover friends in Britain through the British Pteridological Society. We sent them some photos and they offered their congratulations on an impressive exhibit. Reportedly, we will be featured in a future issue of their Bulletin. That's cool. It is after all, The Philadelphia *International Flower Show.*

So finally, to all who helped, please accept my sincerest gratitude for your part in making "The Fox and Fern" a "brilliant" success, and a pleasure for those who visited the 2013 Philadelphia International Flower Show.

Tom D. Tomer

Chairman, Flower Show Committee
The Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

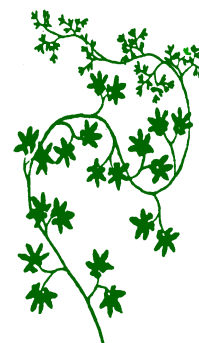
Newsletter — Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society

John Scott, Editor
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First Class Mail

Naturalist's
Code

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



Climbing Fern
Lygodium palmatum