



Newsletter – Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society

2011 Philadelphia International Flower Show “Springtime in Paris”

L'Art des Fougères (*Lar day FOOzhare*) — A Study in Green

Preparations for our 2011 Philadelphia International Flower Show exhibit are moving on schedule. Enthusiasm is mounting at John Albright's studio as Parisian rooftops take shape in the mural. The fixtures and props we plan to use from the Hussian School of Art have been reserved, and arrangements have been made with Meadowbrook Farms and Primex for plant material and decorative pots. Barring any nasty weather events in the next month, we should be ready for set-up week on February 28th.



(Flower Show, continued on page 4)

Meeting and Lecture at The Horticultural Center

February 19, 2011

“Sensory Appeal of Native Plants”

Join Horticulturist Gregg Tepper of Mt. Cuba Center for a fascinating and informative lecture on the sensory appeal of Native Plants. Gregg will discuss the unique ways in which native plants appeal to each of our senses, Sight, Smell, Touch, Taste and even Sound. Learn little-known facts, hear entertaining true stories and see outstanding photographs of the wildflowers we love of the field and forest.

(Meeting, continued on page 4)

"If anyone would like to bring refreshments to the Feb. meeting, please contact Bobbie Makovetz 610-539-0985 or gmakovetz@msn.com."

From the Editor.

I will only be able to do a few more newsletters.

We need someone to come forth to take over the Newsletter.

Fern expertise is not needed, we have members to edit articles.

We need someone to put the Newsletter together in MS Publisher.

John Scott, Editor

Winter Issue
2010-2011

January 25,
2011



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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

Roselynn & David Malarek
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(November 2009)

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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 \$8 for individuals or \$11 for two members of the same address per annum or \$23 and \$31, respectively, for three years.



From the President's Desk

Greetings, Members and Friends of the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society,

While the icy fingers of Old Man Winter still have us firmly in grip, there are some encouraging signs that spring is on its way. Slowly but surely, the sun arcs higher in its orbit, the days grow longer, and the best harbinger of all, the Philadelphia Flower Show is just around the corner (March 6 – 13). Once again DVFWS will be proudly represented. The Flower Show Committee, headed by Tom Tomer and artistic director John Albright, has been very busy for these many months planning, designing, nurturing, and building our exhibit. The Show's theme this year is *Springtime in Paris*. Hmmm, ferns in Paris? As always, Tom and his crew have risen to the occasion. Read all about it in Tom's article, and for a firsthand update, plan to attend our winter meeting at 10 AM on February 19, 2011 at the Horticultural Center in Fairmont Park, Philadelphia.

Speaking of our winter meeting, our guest speaker will be Gregg Tepper, Woods Path Horticulturalist for the Mt. Cuba Center in Greenville, DE. Gregg is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable plantsman who maintains a three-acre wooded section at Mt. Cuba with 390 different taxa of native plants. His program on selecting and using plants native to the Piedmont area promises to be very informative and interesting.

Speaking of Mt. Cuba, mark your calendar – on May 7, DVFWS will be sponsoring a field trip to Mt. Cuba, and if our timing is right, we'll catch the wonderful Mt. Cuba trillium collection at its peak. This docent-led walk is a favorite among Society members, and since space is limited, we urge you to register early. There is a \$5 fee. Information on this trip and the rest of our 2011 field trips can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

2010 was a very successful year for DVFWS. We welcomed several new members and we celebrated our 35th anniversary at a luncheon in October. Thanks to all who attended and a special thank you to the Anniversary Committee members whose hard work, many talents, and generous contributions truly made this a gala affair. See DVFWS secretary Kathy Klein's article to read all about it.

Finally, February marks the end of our tenure as co-presidents of DVFWS. Thanks to all of you who guided and supported during our 4 plus years as officers. We couldn't have done it without you. Vice-president Clara Bondinell will assume the reins of president, and we wish her well.

Hope to see you at our meetings and on our field trips.

Until then, best regards,

Roselynn & David Malarek

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

2011 Events Schedule

Saturday, February 19, 2011 — 10 am

Winter Meeting, Horticultural Center, Fairmont Park, Philadelphia.

Gregg Tepper of Mt. Cuba Center presents a fascinating and informative lecture on the sensory appeal of Native Plants. (see page 1)

Directions to the Horticultural Center, Fairmount Park:

From the Schuylkill Expressway in Philadelphia: exit at Montgomery Drive (driving south) it is the first exit after Roosevelt Blvd [Route 1], turn right at the bottom of the ramp; (driving north) it is the first exit after Girard Avenue, turn left at the bottom of the ramp. Go west about 1/3 mile and turn left where a sign points to the Horticultural Center. Go a block and turn left through the gates. The Center is on the right and the entrance can be reached by the circular drive. Parking is on the street or in the parking lot directly across from the Center.

March 6-13 The Philadelphia Flower Show

Saturday, April 23 — Shenks Ferry and Indian Steps Museum

Coordinator: Karen Mohn 610-562-1790

Shenks Ferry — a map and brochure are available at the link below.

<http://www.pplweb.com/holtwood/things%2Bto%2Bdo/shenks%2Bferry%2Bwildflower%2Bpreserve.htm>

Indian Steps Museum and Historic Nature Trail

www.indiansteps.org

Saturday, May 7

PLACE: Mt Cuba, Greenville, DE

TIME: 10 am to 12 noon

ADMISSION: \$5 per person, limit 20 people,

CONTACT: See page 4 for reservations

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS - April 23rd

We return to the 630 acre Mt Cuba estate which is dedicated to the preservation and propagation of the most beautiful the plants of the Appalachian Piedmont. Please arrive in the parking lot AT LEAST by 9:45 am. Following past tradition, those who wish to have lunch together will go to nearby Buckley's Tavern.

May (second week— TBA) Morris Arboretum

If you would like to schedule, lead, or suggest to trip contact the officers.

(Flower Show, continued from page 1)

If you were on hand for the 25th Anniversary Dinner, you got a briefing on this year's exhibit. If you weren't, here's a short description. We're depicting an art studio in Paris where the artists are obsessed with only one subject – that would be ferns. They have produced a sizeable gallery of paintings and are at work creating more. The objective of the exhibit is to foster appreciation for the beauty of ferns and encourage gardeners in our region to make greater use of them.

We think it will work and we hope you'll be able to help. If you have not signed up to sit the booth, consider doing so. The last I heard, Clara Bondinell, our staffing coordinator, was looking to fill a few slots. It's a good deal. You get free entry into the show and get to make conversation about ferns and horticulture with some of the 250,000 folks who will attend this year.

Hope to see you there.

Tom Tomer, Chairman Flower Show Committee



(Meeting, continued from page 1)

Biographical Information

Gregg Tepper is the Woods Path Horticulturist at Mt. Cuba Center in Greenville, DE where he maintains a three-acre wooded section of over 415 different taxa of native plants. Gregg studied Horticulture at the University of Delaware and has been a native plant enthusiast for over 25 years having lectured extensively in the US as well as Kew Gardens and Wisley in the UK. He has designed several native plant gardens in Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania in addition to currently maintaining a two-acre native plant and shade garden at his home in Fair Hill, Maryland. His interests include rare and unusual forms of native plants with a focus on Ferns, Lilies, Irises, and Trilliums.

REGISTRATION FOR DVFWS FIELD TRIP MT. CUBA CENTER SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Mt. Cuba Center is located at 3120 Barley Mill Road, Hockessin, DE 19707. For directions, contact Mt. Cuba at www.mtcubacenter.org/directions/.

A fee of \$5 per person is required by Mt. Cuba and must be received along with your registration on or before April 23, 2011. If your registration and check are received after this date, they will be returned to you. Confirmation of your participation will come by e-mail. Send registration and check payable to cash to: RoseLynn Malarek, 1316 Brandywine Creek Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

The 35th Anniversary Luncheon

reported by Kathy Klein

DVFWS celebrated the 35th Anniversary with a luncheon, and guest speakers at Williamson’s Restaurant on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Members gathered at 11:30 am with a “Sparkling Cider Walk-about”, visiting with one another and viewing the door prizes, including ferns and various garden and household items provided by Morris Arboretum and by members of the Celebration Committee respectively. A variety of mosses and/or liverworts, brought by the guest speaker, were displayed for a hands-on examination by the guests. At Noon, RoseLynn Malarek, President spoke briefly welcoming everyone and invited members to partake of the luncheon being served. A slice of the 35th anniversary cake was served along with dessert (strawberry sundae), and a copy of the 35th Anniversary program booklet was given each attendee.

John Scott introduced the guest Speaker, Dr. Susan Munch, Professor of Botany, Albright College, who spoke on “Mosses and Liverworts of Pennsylvania.” Note: Highlights follow these minutes.

Ed Adkins, DVFWS Founding Member was to speak briefly on DVFWS Through the Years. However, due to a recent hospitalization, he was unable to attend. Jack Schieber, a member since 1991, spoke on the reason he joined DVFWS and what kept him as a member, citing his enjoyment of being with a “company of people who have a shared interest in ferns.” John Scott reminisced about the early days of the DVFWS, noting that of the 35 charter members, two are still members (Ed Adkins and John Scott). John continued with a humorous anecdote of day trips with Dr. Edgar T. Wherry. Several other members also contributed comments on those early years’ field trips.

Tom Tomer, DVFWS Flower Show Chairperson, gave a presentation on “DVFWS and the Flower Show”. This was a retrospective from 1999 to the present. Highlights follow the minutes.

RoseLynn Malarek acknowledged the work of the Celebration Committee. She thanked Diane Smith for the ferns from Morris Arboretum provided as door prizes. Therese Swift-Hahn, a new DVFWS member, was introduced and thanked for doing the luncheon invitations and the name place cards. Margaret Scott was thanked for the table centerpieces, which were given to the guest who drove the farthest seated at each table. Margaret & John Scott and Clara & Bill Bondinell who also provided door prizes were thanked. Bill Bondinell was thanked for doing the 35th Anniversary program booklet. The program has an acknowledgement to Henrietta Adkins for the “...the history and the accomplishments of the DVFWS....”

Margaret and John Scott, DVFWS Founding Member, called out the raffle ticket numbers for the door prizes. Following the distribution of door prizes, guests were invited to do a hands-on examination of the mosses with Dr. Munch.

(Luncheon, continued on page 6)

We Welcome These New Members:

David Lauer, Chruchville PA
 Gwendoline E. Alexander, Haddonfield, NJ
 Stacey Guthrie, Candensis, PA
 Paul Tesse, Quakertown, PA

Rejoined:

Linda Adkins Horoho, Collegeville PA



(Luncheon, continued from page 5)

RoseLynn introduced Clara Bondinell who will be the next DVFWS President beginning with the February 2011 meeting. Clara called attention to the DVFWS suggested field trips for 2011. Dates and trip coordinators are needed. A sign up sheet was circulated for members who are willing to booth site at the Flower Show and all members are invited to help paint the backdrop for the 2011 Show.

The Luncheon Celebration was ended at about 4 pm, giving members time to view the display mosses of Dr. Munch. RoseLynn reminded members to take the new membership list with them.

Highlights of Dr. Munch's PowerPoint talk follow:

Mosses and Liverworts of Pennsylvania, by Dr. Susan Munch, Professor of Botany, Albright College

Dr. Munch discussed the pictures of mosses and liverworts used in her book, *Outstanding Mosses and Liverworts of Pennsylvania and Nearby States*, © 2006. A basic background was given discussing the two parts of the lifecycle of these mosses and liverworts – the gametophytes and sporophyte stages. The structure and growth of these plants were described with excellent magnified photos of each. Most mosses can only absorb water from the air or rain, as they do not have roots. Mosses, except Club Moss have a midrib down the center leaf. Dr. Munch said one of the most interesting moss groups is Sphagnum moss with individuals specializing only in Sphagnum, as there are so many varieties. Dr. Munch noted that moss makes a fine groundcover in heavily shaded areas.

Common mosses were discussed, with *Leucobryum* being the most commonly recognized moss. Broom moss (*Dicranum*), Tree moss (*Climacum*) are other commonly found mosses. Mosses are found along trails, streams, in heavy shade. Fall, winter, and spring is a good time of year to see moss, as they stay green year round. Moss seen on a rooftop is often dry moss (*Hedwigia*). Unusual mosses were also compared.

Common liverworts (*Conocephalum*) and less common liverworts were compared and differ from mosses in that they have color change, being green in summer, and darker in winter. There are other differences as well. Liverworts have less tolerance for drying out and live closer to the water.

For an in depth description of mosses and liverworts please, see Dr. Munch's book, *Outstanding Mosses and Liverworts of Pennsylvania and Nearby States*, © 2006. A question and answer period followed.

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society Flower Show Exhibits — A Retrospective by Tom Tomer

Tom Tomer spoke about the inside story of DVFWS and the Philadelphia Flower Show. His retrospective covered the period 1999 to 2010. He spoke about how the yearly displays were implemented after the Flower Show set their theme, and DVFWS Flower Show Committee developed the exhibit's theme. He thanked the many committed, long-term volunteers (Tom & Janet Whitefield, Rose Marie & Jack Schieber, and Clara & Bill Bondinell), who help each year as well as the new volunteers. Tom acknowledged the workspace provided by John Albright and John's relaxed approach in allowing the volunteers to paint the backdrop scene he sketched. John later does the final touches bringing the backdrop scene to life. Based on the Flower Show theme, below are the DVFWS themes along with an explanation of the interpretation of the exhibit theme given by Tom Tomer.

(Luncheon continued on page 7)

(Luncheon, continued from page 6)

1999 Ferns in a City Garden

- Exhibit showed a typical urban garden with hardy ferns.

2000 Ferns in a New Setting

-A solarium sunroom was the setting. Morris Arboretum partnered by providing ferns, using many exotic ones.

2001 Local Treasures

“The greatest gardens around are in our backyard.” This exhibit depicted a Pennsylvania hardwood floor scene. Muslim was used for the first time as the backdrop.

2002 Fiddles in the Garden

-A country scene was depicted. Tom called attention to the cat in the window and the house door painted on the backdrop, and said some visitors thought the door was real.

2003 Fronds Forever

-An outdoor market in Central America, using tropical ferns, received a 2nd place award this year. Meadowbrook partnered on this exhibit.

2004 Return to Paradise

-The DVFWS Flower show committee went to Paradise, PA for inspiration and implemented the theme with the ferns of Lancaster County. Landis Valley was the partner. The mural was 24 feet long for the first time this year.

2005 Made in the Shade in the USA

- A small camping scene set in Central Pennsylvania required real logs. Foam was used for the first time and sculptured to resemble shale, and bird and running water sound effects were used

2006 Wake Up, You Fiddlehead, Time to Roll Out of Bed

-An urban garden scene set in a courtyard.

2007 Shades of Green

- Ferns in an Irish cemetery were displayed using American ferns. After research it was determined many of the same ferns are found in America and Ireland. Foam was used to sculpt the tombstones and ruin. Winner of a 2nd place award.

2008 Entrée into Ferns

- A jazzy, outdoor cafe scene was the setting, using tables from La Scala's. The exhibit was dedicated to Katie Giomi, past President of the DVFWS. The exhibit received a 1st place award for its category and also received a design award from the Federated Garden Society.

2009 Pressed for Time

- An abandoned winery being overgrown by ferns was the scene for this exhibit set in Italy. Written in Latin were the words, “Ferns conquer, grapes are the conquered.” A Best in Show for the category was received.

2010 Where the Wild Things Grow

- Wildflowers were the focus of the display for the first time in this scene of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. The muslin backdrop was the largest used to date, 9 x 28 feet. This woodland setting, with the meadow as backdrop, received a 2nd place award.

2011 Flower Show Theme is: Springtime in Paris and the DVFWS Flower Show Committee is thinking about depicting an art studio in Paris with live ferns and artwork to include ferns. The Hussian School of Art is partnering and providing paraphernalia for the display. Students will do some of the painting.

Newsletter — Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society

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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