

# Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

APRIL 2023



## SAVE THE DATE! Summer Picnic Saturday, July 1 at 12:30pm

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One of our long-time members, Michael Martin Mills, has generously offered to host us for a summer picnic at his residence in the West Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia. This will be a rain or shine event as Michael can provide comfortable shelter in the event of rain. Food and drink for the event will be handled as follows: attendees should bring their own lunch; our Hospitality Chair, Joanne Patti, will be reaching out to members for a selection of dessert contributions; and DVFWS will supply beer, wine, and soft drinks. Michael is providing glassware and paper products.

The address is: 632 Burnham Road, Philadelphia 19119; attendees are asked to arrive at 12:30 PM. Directions will be sent out with reminder emails.

It is essential that members bring their plant knowledge as Michael requires some fern ID's to replace lost labels. It is the least we can do to show our appreciation.

-Rick Reynolds



# Field Trips aka Into the Woods

**PLEASE EMAIL THE TRIP LEADER TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE TO REGISTER**

**FRIDAY, May 12, 11:00 AM**

**Secret Springs Turtle Rock Preserve**

Upper Black Eddy, Bucks Co., PA

Leader: John Barry; contact: David Lauer  
[dml1000@comcast.net](mailto:dml1000@comcast.net)

This will be our first visit to this 10-acre native plant and animal preserve in rural northern Bucks County that is operated by John Barry. A planned visit last year was canceled due to the drought. Here is a short video that shows the preserve: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiYbUL9aYEs&t=68s>

John describes his preserve in this way: "The property is crossed by numerous trails that visit the different micro climates. With the loss of many ash trees, we are now expanding the areas exposed to more sunlight. One notable thing is the continuing effort to rescue areas from the big three: stilt grass, multiflora rose



BRASSICACEAE *Brassica rapa* Field Mustard  
Fagleysville and Evans Rds. Mont. Co. 4/10/2023  
Photo by Link Davis

and barberry and their replacement with native plants. Almost the entire area is deer fenced and yes there are secret springs on the property with their attendant wetland plants and animals. We are surrounded by large wooded areas and next to the Ringing Rocks Park. The township has just bought a 110-acre property of a wooded and abandoned quarry that borders our property." Address: 1755 Highview Lane, Upper Black Eddy, Pa 18972.

**GPS Coordinates: 40.065208, -75.191107**

**SATURDAY, May 27, 10:00 AM**

**The Laurels Preserve, Chester Co., PA**

Leader: Contact [RickReynolds5@verizon.net](mailto:RickReynolds5@verizon.net)  
<https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/preserves/laurels-preserve>

Occupying over 700 acres and maintained by the Brandywine Conservancy, this preserve occupies land formerly included in the over 5000-acre King Ranch.

Carpooling is encouraged. Location: The entrance to the Laurels is 100 yards off of PA Route 82 on Apple Grove Road, four miles west of Unionville, PA. Parking for 10 cars is located about ¼ mile from the main gate.

**GPS coordinates: 39.907159, -75.799290**

**FRIDAY, June 9, 10:00 am**

**Northview Gardens, Montgomery Co., PA**

Leader: Jenny Rose Carey

This is the garden of Jenny Rose Carey who spoke to us at our fall meeting regarding shade gardens. Northview is a garden of four-and-a-half acres that contains smaller garden areas within it. The garden areas are linked by paths that allow you to walk around the garden. Many of the gardens contain seats or benches placed where you get a quiet place to sit or something to look at. There is a range of water features throughout the garden that bring sound, coolness, and water for wildlife. The whole garden is managed in a way that minimizes water use, uses environmentally friendly practices, and considers the impact of the garden on its occupants and the surroundings.

**GPS coordinates: 40.178081, -75.191786**

1650 E. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA. Enter at the driveway for Twin Springs Farm. Google Maps shows this driveway as Orchard Drive.

**If you need directions, please reach out to David Lauer: [DML1000@comcast.net](mailto:DML1000@comcast.net)**

*Maps for the Secret Springs and Northview trips can be found on our website: <https://dvfws.org>*



# DVFWS Meeting Minutes



*In honor of helping out with set-up and tear-down at the Philadelphia Flower Show this year - a photo of Jack Schieber working on setting up the wiring in the Philippines in June of 1945. Lucky we weren't being shot at in Philly! He had a scar on his belly from coming down when shot at.*

## **Minutes of the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society Meeting**

**The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill  
April 1, 2023.**

President Rick Reynolds welcomed 22 attendees, including one new member and two visitors, and then presided over a short business meeting.

In lieu of an up-to-date financial report, Rick reported on data provided by Alice-Blake Simonson: The organization's cash balance, as of 2/24/23, was \$4,915; and the net expense of the organization's November 2022 luncheon was \$688.

It was again reported that the position of Secretary is still unfilled. Rick agreed to fill the role until a volunteer agrees to take on the position.

Leslie Morris-Smith reported on our involvement in the Philadelphia Flower Show that ended on March 12, 2023. This year's Flower Show returned to Pennsylvania Convention Center after two years being held outdoors at FDR Park. DVFWS did not exhibit as we had in the past, rather we shared a joint display in collaboration with the African Violet, Gesnariad, Begonia and Indoor Plant Societies.

David Lauer previewed the list of 2023 field trips scheduled to-date. The current schedule is as follows:

Shenk's Ferry      Saturday, April 15

Secret Springs      Friday, May 12

The Laurels Preserve      Saturday, May 27

Northview Gardens      Friday, June 9

Member Picnic Saturday, July 1

Our featured speaker, and DVFWS member, was Janet Novak. Janet's program was titled, *Matching Place to Plant: Expanding the Native Plant Palette*. Janet presented on a wide variety of unusual native species including their habitat and culture.

To augment her presentation, Janet also generously supplied seven beautiful and hard-to-find native specimens that were offered for purchase in a silent auction. Proceeds from the auction totaled \$98 and donated to DVFWS.

Respectfully Submitted – Rick Reynolds,  
President and Secretary

# 2023 Flower Show

## DVF&WS Corner -- the Combined Exhibit of Plant Societies at the Philadelphia Flower Show

The Philadelphia Flower Show in March 2023 was a valiant effort by PHS Staff to plan the iconic annual event within budget and in half the usual time. The Convention Center offered all new LED lighting overhead that was brighter than ever. The wide spacious aisles and copious benches from FDR Park 2022 were everywhere. Many commented they loved the chance to eat at tables with friends and continue browsing the displays without leaving the show floor.

DVFWS was able to achieve a broad exposure at a negligible cost by joining with five other plant societies from the Delaware Valley and showcasing begonias, gesneriads, ferns, African violets, and other rare tropicals too many to name. In total the Combined Plant Societies had:

- 18 shelves each 10 -12 ft long, plus cubes and cabinet
- A 10-ft wide space stretched 60 ftee across the end of Horticult aisles
- Each society was viewable from 2-3 aisles. Many had a clear educational message.

A core committee of one or two from each society planned it and brought in plants from their own collections. Three societies had plant donations from up to eight members.

The participation of DVFWS members and friends had a major impact:

• Over 65% of the 121 time slots were filled by DVFWS members and friends.

52 Hardy Fern booklets were sold

• 46 usable emails were collected and several new members have joined.

The ferns exhibited were *Aglaomorpha coronans*, *Asplenium nidus*, *Davallia mariesii*, *Davallia solida* var. *fejeensis*, *Microsorium musifolium* 'Crocodyllus', *Nephrolepis biserrata* 'Macho', *Nephrolepis exaltata* 'Rita's Gold', *Nephrolepis exaltata* 'Tiger', *Nephrolepis falcata*, *Phlebodium aureum*, *Platynerium veitchii* 'lemoinei', *Pyrrosia lingua* 'kei kan'.

Several of the specimen ferns and plants were on loan from Kendra Scheiber or Paxson Hill Farm & Nursery in Solebury, PA.

The amazing exhibit designer was Bex Hamill (Indoor Plant Society). Planning help was given by Stephen Maciejewski, gesneriads, Barb Borleske, violets and gesneriads, Judy Smith, violets. Tom Tomer, Marianne Ziemba, and Kendra Schieber helped with set-up, plant tagging, and tear-down.

*Submitted by Leslie Morris-Smith*



4 Photo by Leslie Morris-Smith - First-timers Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad Society members at the Flower Show



# Member News

Welcome New Members: Mario and Angela Fiocca, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Donald and Elaine Mease, Kathleen Mooney, Susan Treadway, Joan Wimer

## Field Trip Report

Shenks Ferry Wildflower Preserve April 15, 2023

Shenks Ferry is a world-renowned Wildflower Preserve along the Susquehanna River in Southern Lancaster County. The preserve is managed by the Lancaster Conservancy to protect and restore our Natural Lands, [www.lancasterconservancy.org](http://www.lancasterconservancy.org). They recommend visiting the preserve on weekdays during the peak season March through June. Our trip was scheduled on a Saturday. I didn't know what to expect, but I can tell you I was pleasantly surprised by a relatively small number of people enjoying the trail. This certainly reinforces the saying, "Just do it". Tomorrow is not guaranteed.

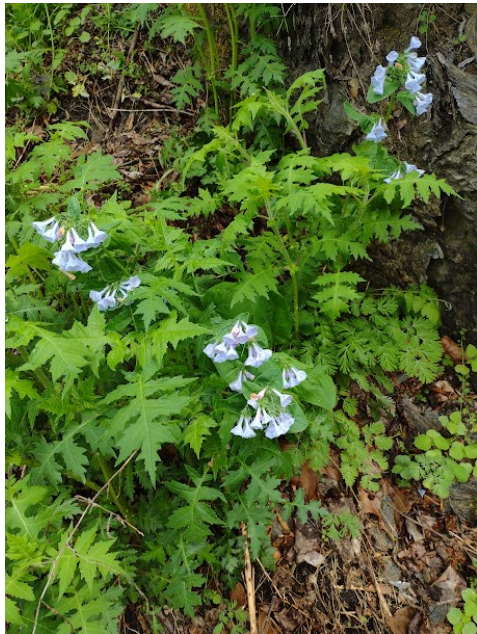


Photo by David Lauer

I want to thank all the members who participated on our first walk of the season; David Lauer (Fieldtrip Coordinator), Kendra Schieber, Rick Reynolds, Elaine and Don Mease and Karen and myself. The weather was perfect and the flowers were bursting with color.

The Lancaster Conservancy has a great trifold for Shenks Ferry, with color pictures of the wildflowers you will see on your walk-up Grubb Run. Some of my highlights for this fieldtrip were White Trout Lily (*Erythronium albidum*), Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) and Susquehanna trillium (*Trillium flexipes*) all in bloom.

In the past, access road conditions made it a challenge to visit the preserve, but I can say the Conservancy made vast improvements to the road and parking area. There is a little bit of a walk, on a level road to Grubb Run with plenty of Spring Ephemerals to get you excited for what awaits you.

Respectfully Submitted: Brian Mohn

# About DVFWS

*The purpose of 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: Richard Reynolds**

RickReynolds5@verizon.net

**Vice President: Leslie Morris-Smith**

leslm5791@gmail.com

**Secretary: Open Position**

**Treasurer: Alice-Blake Simonson**

asbjj28@yahoo.com

**Field Trips: David Lauer**

DML1000@comcast.net

## Membership

*Membership in DVFWS is open to anyone who is interested in ferns and wildflowers. Three 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 e-mailed to: Kendra Schieber at [kenschieb@yahoo.com](mailto:kenschieb@yahoo.com)*

*Membership is \$10 for individuals or \$14 for two members at the same address per year or \$28 and \$39, respectively for three years. Dues are payable to DVFWS and mailed to:*

**Alice-Blake Simonson**  
24 Bridle Ridge Circle  
Lewes, DE 19958  
215-868-0440

**Web site:** [www.dvfws.org](http://www.dvfws.org)

**Webmaster: Leslie Morris-Smith**  
[leslm5791@gmail.com](mailto:leslm5791@gmail.com)



Fern Walk - Willow Grove Avenue - Chestnut Hill - Philadelphia  
Photo by Chrissy Steele