

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

FEBRUARY 2018

President's Message

As spring approaches a lot is in the planning for the new year. The year began with Link Davis and 7 members of DVFWS and 8 from Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy on an interesting hike along the Perkiomen Creek near Graterford to identify plants in winter. *See the write up in this issue.*

March 17th is our scheduled **Spring Meeting** at Morris Arboretum. After the meeting and social time, Jess Slade will lead a tour of the grounds, weather permitting. I have several indoor alternatives if the weather doesn't cooperate.

Michael Brooks is working on a varied list of programs for **Field Trips/Tours**. Bring any ideas along to the meeting. Also I'm toying with the idea of a multiple day trip for this year or probably next to Massachusetts. A few possibilities include Bartholomew's Cobble, Norcross Gardens, and Arnold Arboretum.

We are cleared for me to work with **volunteers at Barnes Arboretum** to transplant plants and clear some ground covers. Contact Leslie Morris Smith who will be coordinating with the volunteers and scheduling with me.

The **Summer Meeting** will be at our Garden (RocklandBotanicalGarden.org) on Saturday, July 21. We have a nine acre woods, a conifer collection, an organized angiosperm garden, and of course a fern collection. (*We have been working the past three years on recovering from storm and deer damage*). In the morning we can consider seeing a few Berks County fern locations.

Rick Reynolds has volunteered to chair the **Outreach Committee**. This currently involves a set up at plant sales to advertise the Society and get new members. So far we have been at Morris Arboretum, Millersville Conference, and the Hardy Plant Society sales. Other possibilities are Tyler Arboretum, Barnes Arboretum, and the Henry Foundation. Contact Rick if you would like to participate. A co-chair could be useful in getting announcements to radio and TV, etc.

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The **Membership Chair** is open.

Mary Carr is the **Hospitality Chair** who sees to the refreshments at the meetings.

Our **Newsletter Editor**, Janet Whitefield, is doing a splendid job with not only the newsletter but maintains the electronic membership file, sends out the notices, and keeps me on track with timely reminders.

Leslie Morris-Smith maintains the **Web Site**, and did a wonderful job of updating my primitive site.

Jess Slade is our liaison with **Morris Arboretum** and helps to arrange our meetings.

Alice-Blake Simonson has faithfully been our **Treasurer** for many, many years. She maintains a card file of members present and past as well as handling our finances.

Last but not least Donna Wilhelm is our **Recording Secretary** taking accurate minutes at every meeting.

It will be a shame to discontinue our long running participation in the **Philadelphia Flower Show**. We still have a willing committee but need a coordinator. A volunteer or suggestions are welcome. Contact Tom Tomer.

Thank you all for your service and participation in the Society.

John



Wear green to our meeting on St. Patrick's Day!

Spring Meeting, March 17, 2018

Morris Arboretum. 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia (Chestnut Hill Section)

Gates open at 9:30. Meeting starts at 10 am in the Widener Education Center behind the gift shop at the top of the hill. Attendees at the meeting are not asked to pay admission and are welcome to enjoy the gardens afterwards.

In fact, this time, following the meeting and refreshments, Jess Slade will lead a walk through the natural areas at the Morris Arboretum. Weather dependent, hopefully we will see some early wildflowers and birds on our walk through the woods trails and around the wetland. Spring can't come any too soon! Jess will discuss some of the recent work and upcoming projects in this section of the Arboretum. Although we'll be staying on the paths, please dress for the weather and wear shoes that can get dirty.

Jess is the McCausland Natural Lands Horticulturist at the Morris Arboretum where she manages meadows, woodlands, a riparian corridor, and a restored wetland. Previously, she has worked at Brooklyn Bridge Park and as a private gardener in New York City.



Winter in the wetlands,
Morris Arboretum.
Spring can't come any
too soon!

Refreshments needed!

If you would like to contribute a finger food for the refreshments for the March 17th meeting, (St. Patrick's Day) please contact Mary Carr. 610-933-6352 or marycarr104@gmail.com. Cheese, crackers, fruit, cookies, cake, donut holes, etc are always welcome! Coffee and hot water are supplied by Morris Arboretum.

Minutes November 18, 2017 Meeting

President John Scott welcomed thirty one members and one guest to the fall meeting of the DVFWS at the Morris Arboretum at 10:00 am. The agenda for the morning included a business meeting in two sessions, a talk with photographs: “Washington State Rock Gardens – Wild and Tamed”, by John Scott, and finally a social time with delicious food and drinks, arranged by Bobbie and George Makovetz.

November 18, 2017 Business Meeting

Minutes of the March 18, 2017 business meeting, published in the Spring Newsletter, were approved.

Alice Blake Simonson, Treasurer, gave the following report:

Checking account closing balance March 18, 2017
\$2104.84

Deposits (dues only)
194.00

Expenditures (donation to Morris Arboretum, honorarium, Millersville event, website, banner and newsletter. 996.02

Checking account balance November 18, 2017
1302.82

Flower Show- DVFWS will not participate in the 2018 show, but a committee exists for the 2019 show if a committee chair is found.

Field Trips – John Scott and Michael Brooks led the discussion. Susan Munch will lead a trip at Monocacy in June, 2018. Suggestions for other trips included: Shenks Ferry and adjacent area; Cove Mountain, a new Nature Conservancy property; the Pine Barrens; Mt. Cuba; Chanticleer. Please give other suggestions to Michael Brooks.

Two DVFWS volunteer positions are open. Please contact John Scott if you will fill one of these:

Outreach – this position requires taking the DVFWS banner and flyers to plant sales, such as those at Morris Arboretum, the Barnes Arboretum, or Hardy Plant Society, to promote interest and membership in our club. We discussed selling or giving away fern plants to encourage appreciation for these plants and to increase membership in the DVFWS. Pros and cons of buying or growing ferns were explored, but there was no decision about action on this matter.

Membership – this position involves greeting people at the registration table at our meetings, inviting newcomers to join the club, and writing welcome letters to new members.

Rose Marie Schieber. We learned, with sadness, of the death of our long time, much loved member on November 15, 2017. A memorial service for Rose Marie will be held at 2:00 pm on December 9, 2017 at the BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2040 W. Street Road, Warrington, PA. This service closely follows the memorial service on October 16, 2017, for Jack Schieber, beloved husband of Rose Marie, and valued member of DVFWS.

Recognition and thanks were expressed for the work of Janet Whitefield, as editor of the DVFWS newsletter, and for her contributions to much of the communication and activity in our society.

Volunteering at the Barnes Arboretum: John Scott described his ongoing work on the fern collection at the Arboretum. There may be opportunity for volunteers to join John next spring to help with transplanting ferns. John and Leslie Morris Smith will explore the possibility and report back in the next newsletter.

Submitted by Donna Wilhelm, Secretary

Remembering Rose Marie Schieber

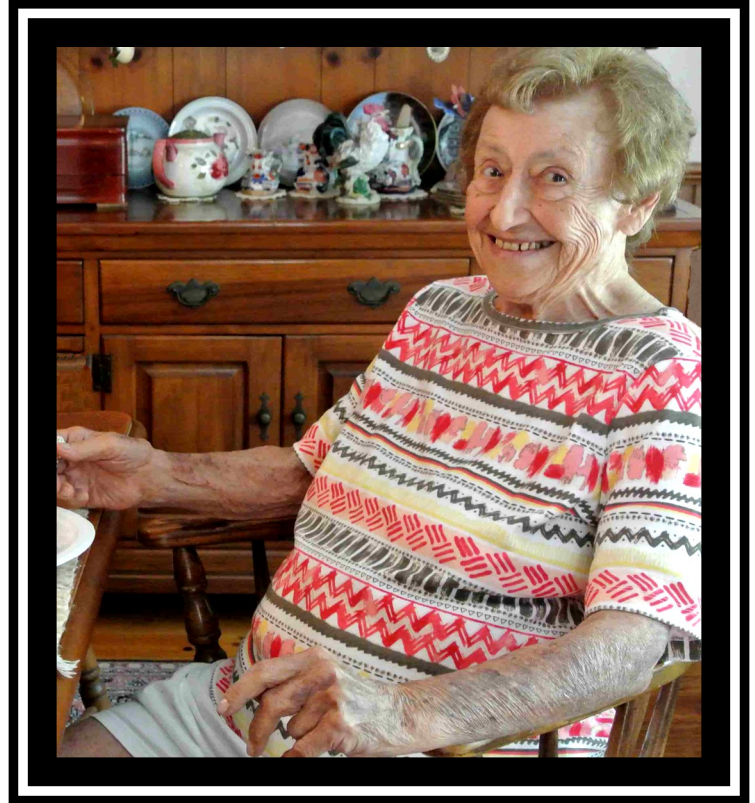
ROSE MARIE

By Lauren Elizabeth Ogden

The definition of a ROSE;
 A woody perennial flowering plant,
 Strong, vibrant, enduring,
 A stately flower,
 Queen of her garden,
 She watches over the fresh buds,
 Caring for them,
 Keeping each in their row,
 Renowned for her beauty,
 Her fashion and grace,
 Soft petals with a colorful,
 Classic sense of style.
 Every so often,
 The prick of her thorn,
 Will remind you,
 To take care in all that you do,
 Above all of this,
 An eternal symbol of love,
 The love of a ROSE will last forever.

MARIE, Maria, Mary of Nazareth,
 Protector, provider,
 Mother to all,
 Our Lady,
 Pure of heart,
 Selfless and brave,
 Willing to sacrifice all that she can,
 Others come first,
 Humble and virtuous,
 Admired, adored,
 And though she'd be shy of all this attention,
 Insisting instead that the world move along,
 Still we remember,
 Honor and love,
 Our ROSE MARIE.

Photo by John Scott taken at the July 2017
 meeting and picnic at Schieber's home.



Rose Marie was a mainstay, along with Jack, of the DVFWS and many other organizations.

She contributed to the DVFWS in numerous ways over the course of many years - she was an integral part of the Flower Show Committee [painting backgrounds - transporting ferns to and from the Convention Center - setting up and taking down our Exhibit - sitting at the Exhibit - stapling Fern Booklets, etc.] as well as hosting, participating in and/or arranging field trips, and meetings.

Along with friends and members of the family, Rose Marie's granddaughter gave a glowing tribute to Rose Marie at her Memorial Service. Her poem to the left.

Suffice it to say, Rose Marie was a woman of many parts and made significant contributions to the DVFWS and other organizations in the course of her long and productive life.

Rose Marie was active until two weeks before her passing.

We will miss her smiling face, energy and stories.
 Clara Bondinell

2018 Field Trips

Field trips this year are being coordinated by our vice president, Michael Brooks. If you have suggestions or would like to lead a field trip, please contact Michael at 610-293-0693 or Mbrooks@wcupa.edu.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, SHENKS FERRY at 10 am. Shenks Ferry is a premier spot for spring wildflowers near Conestoga, southern Lancaster County. We have chosen a Thursday because on weekends in April, it is extremely crowded. If you have never been, it is a must see. Many of us enjoy going every year! The trail is easy, walking above a beautiful creek. The road in is rough and the parking is minimal. We will meet at the little restaurant in Conestoga at 10 am. Some may want to arrive early for coffee and pie. We will then car pool to the site. Those who want to carpool with Michael from his home in Wayne, should contact Michael Brooks at 610-293-0693 or mbrooks@wcupa.edu. Bring a lunch or eat at Conestoga Wagon after the walk. If using a GPS, put in the town of Conestoga, NOT Shenks Ferry.

Directions:

- Take 202 South to 30 Bypass west
- Stay on Route 30 until Gap, PA
- At the light, turn left onto Route 41
- Turn right onto Route 741 (the tower is on your left)
- Stay on 741 when it turns to the right west of Strasburg, PA.
- Drive past Willow Street, PA (Routes 272 and 222)
- When 741 turns to the right at Marticville Rd., drive straight ahead, staying on Long Lane
- Turn left at the first light onto New Danville Pike

Drive to the town of Conestoga and meet the DVFWS group there at Conestoga Wagon Restaurant.

- Stay to the left and drive onto River Corner Rd. when the road splits at the “Y” SW of Conestoga.
- Drive past River Road. (The first sign for Shenks Ferry is on this corner.)
- Follow the signs to Shenks Ferry – turning left and then right onto the unpaved and bumpy road that leads to the Preserve.

Drive slowly and park on the far side of the creek.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2. FERN WALK with Susan Munch at Monocacy Hill Recreation Area. Susan is a retired botany professor and an expert on ferns and mosses.

Directions:

- Route 422 starts from Route 202 just south of King of Prussia. Drive north on Route 422.
- Continue on Route 422 when it ceases to be a limited access highway.
- Just after it crosses Route 662. You will see a diner on your right and a little later a Wawa on your left. Keep your eye out on your right for Hill Road. It's a fairly modest little road.
- Drive north on Hill Road to Geiger Road.
- Turn left and you will soon see the parking lot.

In Planning:

--a visit to Stoneleigh, the Natural Lands new natural garden in Villanova.

--a visit to Tyler Arboretum, a place of interest for its specimen plants and wildflower meadow as well as for the home and library of the two 19th century farmer/botanists who began the collection.

Trip Report

Perkiomen Trail at Hollywood Drive Feb. 3, 2018

Link Davis led 7 members of DVFWS and 8 from Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy on an interesting hike along the Perkiomen Creek near Graterford. With no wind and a warm sun on our backs, the 30 degrees didn't feel bad at all. Link handed out plant lists of 63 plants that he has found along the trail at this site. In the winter, we were identifying plants by their seed pods and/or their remaining leaves. We smelled the fragrant seed pods of Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum virginianum* and Mugwort, *Artemisia Vulgaris*, and examined the tiny flowers of Mountain Mint and Perilla Mint. *Lamiaceae* (mints) flowers have two lips, the upper with three lobes and the lower with two lobes. Almost all mints have square stems, but all square stems are not mints.



We compared the pods, silk, and seeds of Common Milkweed and Swamp Milkweed. Swamp, *Asclepias incarnata* has smaller pods but bigger seeds! We compared 3 kinds of mustard -- Yellow Rocket, Dame's Rocket (or Mother of the Evening) and Garlic Mustard. I learned a new word, "zygomorphic," yes, look it up and see how it and "actinomorphic" applies to flowers!



Pycnanthemum virginianum

Link makes scientific names more accessible by explaining what the Latin word means and how that relates to the plant. He also gave us mnemonics to differentiate plants that are similar. Link told interesting historical

stories that helped us remember facts about other flowers. He prepares well for each hike he leads, and you can tell that he was much appreciated by his students when he taught school. He continues in retirement to be a most interesting teacher. If you ever get to go on a hike with Link, you will see what I mean! We are currently trying to come up with a mutual date to the same area so we can see these same plants in the summer or fall.

Following the hike, some of us found the nearby Bald Eagle's nest and then returned to Whitefield's for hot soup and chili, fireside. The two groups enjoyed each other's company, and we invite PWC to our March 17 meeting at Morris Arboretum.

Submitted by Janet Whitefield,
photos by Tom Tomer



Echinocystis lobata

NATIVE MOUNTAIN MINT NAMED 2018 PLANT OF THE YEAR BY THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

Pycnanthemum muticum has been named 2018 Plant of the Year by The Garden Club of America (GCA). Annually since 1995, the GCA has identified a stellar North American native plant to receive its [Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal for Plant of the Year](#).

Commonly known as mountain mint, the plant is a native perennial that attracts a diverse abundance of bees, butterflies, moths and other beneficial insects as an excellent source of nectar. The easy-to-grow ornamental plant has noteworthy blue-green foliage, silvery bracts, aromatic leaves and pinkish to white flowers that bloom from July through September.

Mountain mint can be grown in full sun or partial shade and in both drought and wet conditions. It naturalizes politely, producing an attractive upright tiered clump that is two to three feet high and wide. Mountain mint grows in USDA zones 4 to 8, from Maine to Michigan and south to Florida and Texas. The plant helps with erosion control and is resistant to diseases, insect pests, deer, rabbits and rodents.

“Mountain mint is a pollinator magnet,” says Lulu Lubbers of the GCA. “Not only is it a lovely addition to a garden, it’s a lively addition – there is such a buzz of activity, it’s like watching wildlife TV,” she says. The plant was nominated for the award by a member of the Garden Club of Madison in New Jersey.



The 2018 honorable mention Plant of the Year was awarded to *Maianthemum racemosum*, formerly known as *Smilacina racemosa* and commonly known as false Solomon's seal. It is a three-season woodland beauty, with fragrant white panicle flowers in spring, arching stems and ridged green leaves that provide graceful architectural form through summer and golden foliage and showy red berries in fall. False Solomon's seal colonizes naturally in shade or partial shade, is extremely resilient, adaptable, low-maintenance and hardy and provides nectar for pollinators and food for wildlife.

Maianthemum racemosum is hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9 and found in every state except Hawaii. False Solomon's seal was nominated by a member of the Seattle Garden Club.

Photography credit: Jordan Leff, Harding Land Trust

Member News

Penny Moy

Mary Anne Newberg notified us that **Penny Moy** passed away at her home in Shannondell on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Her birthday was January 19th. She was surrounded by her family Richard still resides at Shannondell. It was because of Penny and Richard that MaryAnne came to be a member of DVFWS. She and Richard had been members from 1997 to 2015 when it became difficult for them to get to meetings. They were faithful “sitters” at our Flower Show for many years. The family will hold a memorial service in April. Condolences can be sent to Richard at 10000 Shannondell Dr., Fenwyk #414, Audubon, PA 19403.

Morris Smith, Leslie & Howard 2020

leslm5791@gmail.com
8818 Duveen Drive
Wyndmoor, PA 19038
215-805-2591

Leslie has included husband Howard in their dual membership. Contact information is the same.

Slade, Jess 2018

jslade@upenn.edu
9414 Meadowbrook Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19118
859-948-1048

Jess is DVFWS liaison with Morris Arboretum. She manages the natural areas at Morris.

Ksepka, Jason 2020

ksepka@bhwp.org
fitzpatrick@bhwp.org
13 Yard Avenue
Farmingdale, NJ 07727
mobile: 732-618-4748
website www.bhwp.org

Jason is curator at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve. He is including **Jake Fitzpatrick** the Nursery Manager at Bowman’s under his dual membership. Welcome Jake! Jason’s home address has changed but not his contact numbers.

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: John Scott
johndscott302@gmail.com

Vice President: Michael Brooks
Mbrooks@wcupa.edu

Secretary: Donna Wilhelm
donnacwilhelm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Alice-Blake Simonson
asbjj28@yahoo.com

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.

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
28 Chancery Court
Souderton, PA 18964
215-868-0440

The newsletter is published quarterly. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome and may be e-mailed to

delvalfernsof@gmail.com

or to Janet Whitefield, editor
jntwhite@verizon.net

Web site: www.dvfws.org
will post the current newsletter in color.

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