

# Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

FEBRUARY 2021

## Flower Show June 2021

### HABITAT, Nature's Masterpiece June 5-13



*Hamamelis virginiana*  
Witch Hazel in bloom  
Neversink Mountain,  
Berks. Co., PA  
1/25/21 by Link Davis

**W**e signed the contract! PHS reminds us this will be the first time in the Show's history that it will take place outside at the height of the local gardening season, as Chelsea Flower Show in England has done for years.

This will be a rare opportunity to exhibit May and June blooming wildflowers that we have been unable to force for the exhibit in March. Known at the show as the Fern Society, we will show our "Wild [flower] side!"

To help with audience flow, PHS has waived the requirement to have members sitting at the booth. What a relief – no one is required to be there to greet the visitors and/or to guard the exhibit. Volunteer tickets for our members will still be available if members wish to help in other ways.

Location: FDR Park opened in 1921. It is a magnificent landscape that is designated a Historic District by the Philadelphia Historical Commission. The Park was designed by Olmsted Brothers who also designed the roadways in Acadia National Park and other well known landscapes.

The Flower Show at FDR Park most closely resembles Longwood Gardens with wide paved paths throughout. You can take the Septa Broad Street Subway line to the last station (NRG) in South Philadelphia where the sports stadiums are located, where one can walk or take a PHS shuttle to the show. For those who wish to drive, there is plenty of parking in the sports arena lots. The perimeter of the show will be fenced.

And what a great location for us. The preliminary map, shows us to be in the travel path for people exiting the Horticulture tent, and on the way to the Food Court. Cactus and Rhododendron Societies are beside us. Our neighbor behind us is Waldor Orchids, and beyond that is a large courtyard in front of the American Swedish Museum. The Miniatures and other exhibits will be shown inside the museum. One noted entertainment in the picnic grove is the Circus School, which should be fun to see.

### DESIGN!!

The challenge will be to design our exhibit for our 12' x 12' site just north of two trees of undetermined size. It will be open to natural elements like rain and sun, wet and dry spells. We will need an appealing design that can take a hard storm, with easy maintenance, and the challenging audience flow in mind.

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The theme is Habitat, and could include a habitat where ferns and wildflowers flourish. Bog gardens are a full-sun option, and if elevated closer to eye level, might be a catchy way to encourage others to start their own. Some ferns in wetlands are sun tolerant. There will be a series of planning meetings by Zoom to discuss the possibilities. Please plan to attend. See link below.

PHS notes: “The expanded Flower Show will cover 15 acres (45% more space than last year!), allowing for a safe, socially distanced presentation of the nation’s most looked-to gardening and floral attraction. The natural beauty of this outdoor setting will be at its peak during the Show’s June dates and is blue-ribbon worthy, with ornamental grasses and majestic old trees decorating the terrain. The quaint gazebo on the Olmstead Overlook facing Meadow Lake is the perfect spot to admire the park’s beauty.”

We think you will enjoy this new venue, season, and updated displays.

Leslie Morris Smith, Flower Show Coordinator.



Photo from Bing online photos

***JOIN US FOR THE WEEKLY REMOTE PLANNING MEETING MONDAY AT 3 PM***

Please join us for the initial Flower Show weekly planning meeting on Monday **February 8th at 3pm.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85824316993?pwd=eDhqTmswTCtPNldBaS8rSVdDOWJIUT09>

Please email me at [leslm5791@gmail.com](mailto:leslm5791@gmail.com) if you have questions about the meeting or about Zoom. Join 15 minutes early if you want to resolve Zoom issues or call my home number at 215-233-3532. You may text my mobile phone 215-805-2591 too. All are welcome whether or not you have been involved with Flower Shows in the past. We need your interest and input.

Leslie Morris Smith



**PRELIMINARY MAP NOT FOR SHARING WITH THE PUBLIC**

The layout of the show seems to still be fluid. The yellow shows the Horticourt where individuals bring their plants. Blue are commercial booths. Red is food. There are three districts: Garden on the left, Design in the middle, and Plant on the right. Pale green circles are existing trees or bushes. The three little chartreuse squares in the Plant District are displays of Cactus, Rhododendron, and Fern Society. See black arrow for our location. Notice we have some shade from a tree!

# Minutes November 21, 2020

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society Minutes

ZOOM Meeting, November 21, 2020

Attendance via Zoom – 29

Our meeting opened with a welcome from president, Rick Reynolds, who then introduced speaker, Kirsten Werner, Director of Communications of the Natural Lands Trust. (NLT). Kirsten began with a history of population growth and subsequent diminishment of open space in southeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Next, she explained the work of the NLT from the 1930's to the present - acquiring 22,000 acres of land in various kinds of agreements in which open space is preserved and restored, with open public access available to all. She showed a series of slides highlighting beauty of Natural Lands Preserves with habitats from shoreline, to bogs, to grasslands, to woodlands, and to estates with interesting gardens. The photography and information were excellent. This talk should inspire our members to visit these many NLT preserves scattered throughout our DVFWS membership areas, which are open and free to the public.

After a short “stretch” break, we all returned to the ZOOM program on our computers for the business meeting. The agenda included the following:

Minutes of the September business meeting were approved.

Treasurer Alice Blake Simonson: Financial Report

Checking acct. - opening balance

(closing balance last report 11/16/19) \$2615.15

Deposits - dues, PHS FS stipend,

fern sales after FS-20, etc. 3797.00

Disbursements - Flower Show-'20 expenses,

website, Newsletter 3292.35

Closing balance as of November 19, 2020 \$3119.80

FYI note: check #269 - 8/29/20 - \$50.00 - is still outstanding - Oldcastle APG - freight for stone - Flower Show 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice-Blake Simonson, treasurer

November 12, 2020

David Lauer, Field Trip Co-Chairperson, spoke briefly about possible trips later in year 2021 and made available a long and interesting list of potential locations for us to explore.

Tom Tomer, long time chairperson of the Flower Committee, gave a report with slides on the history of DVFWS Flower Shows from 1999 to 2016. He began with a tribute to Katy Giomi, previous show chairperson, and our inspiring leader until her death in 2008, when Tom agreed to assume this responsibility. He explained that the Flower Show has been our main way of attracting new members, as well as generating interest in participation from members and having fun together. After thanking all who have worked hard on past exhibits, he showed slides of our members engaged in design meetings; painting and moving backdrops and scenery; finding props; finding, caring for, and moving plant materials; setting up our exhibits; booth-sitting at the Flower Shows; and finally working at the Sunday night breakdowns. These pictures brought back warm memories for those of us who were fortunate enough to be involved.

Flower Show Chairperson, and host for the Zoom meeting, Leslie Morris-Smith, reported that the 2021 Philadelphia Flower Show will be held June 5-June 13, 2021 at FDR Park in south Philadelphia across from the sports complex. The theme will be “HABITAT, Nature’s Masterpiece.” A planning committee is forming shortly. Please consider joining the team and work on the Flower Show in the coming year.

Rick ended the meeting by wishing everyone good holidays and good health as we go through this pandemic. I wish to add my thanks now to Rick Reynolds, Leslie Morris Smith, David Lauer, Tom Tomer, and Janet Whitefield for their good work in setting up the 45<sup>th</sup> society anniversary program so we all could be together-- at a distance.

Respectively submitted,

Donna Wilhelm, Secretary



# Combating Covid Cabin Fever

Pictures and article by member Link Davis of Sanatoga,PA

We are all contending with not being able to associate with friends, go to restaurants or celebrate holidays. We need methods by which to combat this ever-present virus. My method is to look for winter remnants of what once was in bloom. This morning I started by bringing up a map on my laptop with Sanatoga in the center and looking for parks, camps, preserves and open areas. Today, I discovered Congo Road Open Space located in Douglas Township, Montgomery County only about twenty minutes from where I live. The satellite image shows a creek, woods and a field - perfect.

Upon arrival, I make sure I have an extra battery, gloves, hat, phone, and a cigar. When I find something, I'll take several images trying to get the entire plant, close-ups on the leaves, stem, and what remains of the calyx/corolla. The walks usually last from 30-90 minutes. By the time I get home, download, delete, enhance, label and upload, I've consumed more than half the day.

It's my way of doing something I enjoy, getting exercise in the fresh, unpolluted air and perhaps discovering an area to return to in the spring.



These pictures were taken at Congo Road Open Space on 1/29/2021

Left to right: *Vernonia noveboracensis*, New York Ironweed  
*Circaea canadensis*, Enchanter's Nightshade  
*Lamium purpureum*, Purple Dead-Nettle

# Member News

Nancy Ehmer and Kathy Kline moved to other locations nearby.

Welcome to new member Elaine Brody.

Ellen Wilen is in Assisted Living, having had a stroke.

All books donated by Alice Blake Simonson have been distributed to members. Many thanks were received.

President Rick Reynolds suggests that you might be interested in this You Tube presentation, which I too (Janet Whitefield) found most interesting. Here is a link to the recording of the collaborative webinar between the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Chapter and the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College:

“A Guide to Restoring the Little Things That Run the World” with Doug Tallamy, recorded on January 10, 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFcNLxjL104>

You can skip to 8:00 on the recording by moving the time indicator at the bottom and miss the discussion about Hardy Plant Society and the Scott Arboretum. It takes about an hour but is well worth the time. The “Little Things” are beneficial, native insects. There is a lot about native plants which are their habitat, and native bees which our last year’s Flower Show featured in bee houses. We think you will find this very worthwhile.



Photo from Bing online photos

## 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: 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.*

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

**[delvalfernsoc@gmail.com](mailto:delvalfernsoc@gmail.com)**

*or e-mailed to Janet Whitefield, editor*  
**[jntwhite863@gmail.com](mailto:jntwhite863@gmail.com)**

*Membership is \$10 for individuals or \$14 for two members in a household 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**  
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