

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

JULY 2021

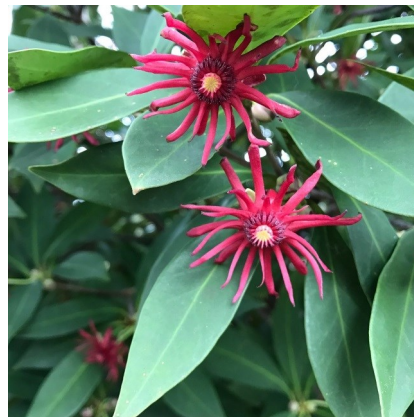


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From the President's Desk

I thought I'd stop being a lazy lima bean and actually make a prose contribution to our summer newsletter. I have to say as we slowly return to normalcy post-pandemic, it's been a pleasure to meet with various members as we begin to rollout field trips again. Of course, the recent flower show was another opportunity to work and interact with any number of members that were involved with the show. Speaking of the flower show: Which organization had one of the coolest and grooviest exhibits of the show? DVFWS! Brian and Karen Mohn's containers without doubt were the highlight of the exhibit. And, Leslie Morris-Smith did *all* the heavy-lifting from beginning to end. Although, Tom Tomer and Nanci Ehmer can attest that building the exhibit walls was no box of chocolates. Thanks to all of the members who volunteered during set-up, greeting visitors, and disassembly. I know the heat and weath-



er were a challenge, but it was still a lot of fun to participate and work with everyone. There's more to follow in the newsletter about the show.

I'd also like to share a couple of gardening successes I experienced this year. Last spring, I purchased a nice specimen of Florida Anise tree (*Illicium floridanum*) through a Hardy Plant Society on-line auction. This native, evergreen shrub will grow 6 to 10 feet high and 4 to 7 feet wide, has showy dark red flowers that bloom in April to May, and prefers part-shade to full shade. Furthermore, it's deer resistant and tolerates wet soil and heavy shade. My only concerns at installation were cold hardiness – it's hardy to zone 7 as it's a Southeast native – and whether it was

strongly deer resistant. Well, it survived last winter and the deer in my woodland never touch it. One quibble: it appears the foliage isn't truly evergreen in our region such that it looks tattered when it blooms in April. It's full of new foliage now, which is pristine. (The newsletter image is a stock photo.)

The other success turned into a very pleasant surprise. I planted a mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Carousel') when we redid our front walkway four years ago. It was browsed significantly by deer in the winter of year 2. The foliage made a comeback the following year, and this year I was rewarded with a spectacular display. (The images here are mine.)

I'd like to have an in-person meeting/picnic this summer if at all possible. We'll see if we can make that happen. Watch your e-mail! And, a hearty welcome to all new members!

Yours truly, Rick



Upcoming Field Trips

Join Us! Saturday, July 24, 2021 Henry Foundation for Botanical Research

<https://www.henrybotanicgarden.org/>

We will join with members of the Philadelphia Botanical Club and the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society for this DVFWS Filed Trip. The Henry Foundation is a wonderful gem in our very midst, and we welcome the opportunity to visit it with Susan Treadway. It's also a great opportunity to mix it up with members of the several groups. Some of us are members of all three groups, each with its own separate specialty, but each with the ability to see the usefulness and beauty at the Henry Foundation. Cross pollination is useful.

Our visit begins at 10 AM, and there is a requested donation of \$5 per person. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes with socks over your pant legs and appropriate insect repellent. (Many of the paths are grassy, and ticks are present. They are a legitimate life form, although we may not always give them proper respect as God's creatures, although members of the genera *Rickettsia* and *Borellia* are enamored of them.)

Bring fluids. A lunch, also, but this is optional. There is a shaded pavilion where we can eat once we walk the grounds with Susan and their curator Henry (not the eponymous Henry, of course, but it ought to look good on his resume)

Directions: the address is 801 Stony Lane, Gladwyne, PA 19035. **Stony Lane is only accessible as an extension of Henry Lane, which is on the east side of Route 23 at a sharp turn.** My directions follow, but if you are confused, go to their website (above).

From either I-76 (the Schuylkill Expressway) or I-476 (the "Blue Route"), east or west, take the Conshohocken exits as listed on the overhead highway signs. From the bottom of **the 476 exit**, head east (right) on **Matson Ford Road** a short distance toward (but not into) Conshohocken.

Turn **right** onto **Crawford Rd.** At the McDonald's the road takes a sharp left turn, heads uphill and becomes **Route 23 (Conshohocken State Rd.)** In **2.1 miles** from the McDonald's turn **left** (carefully) onto **Henry Lane** and follow the signs to **Stony Lane** and the Foundation.

Heading west on **I-76**, at the **bottom of the Conshohocken exit proceed a very short distance ahead** to Crawford Ave, turn right and follow the previous directions.

Join us! Saturday, July 31, 2021 Tannersville Cranberry Bog Walk

<https://www.mcconservation.org/tannersville-bog.html>

We are inviting our members and guest to join us on a private tour of the Tannersville Bog on Saturday July 31, 2021 @ 9:00 am. Our tour is from 9am -12pm. There is a \$5 fee per person payable the day of the walk. Cash or check payable to Monroe County Conservation District. All Covid-19 Bog Program Policy is currently in effect which means masks and limit to 20 participants.

The walk is on a raised floating boardwalk through the bog so comfortable sturdy footwear is recommended and normal attire for being in partial sun in the summer.

Parking is at the Bog where we will start our tour at 9:00 am, so please be on time.

I decided to limit our tour to one Bog because of travel time and heat in the summer. We may do the Valmont Bog another year.

Please email me (Brian Mohn) to confirm reservation: papatrees@aol.com or call me at 610-207-1594. Email me if you want printed directions and map.

Directions: the address is 552 Cherry Lane Road, East Stroudsburg , PA 18301.

From Route 611, at the light at the Tannersville Inn turn onto Cherry Lane Road. The parking lot is 1.9 miles on your right from Route 611.

Flower Show

Native Bog Plants Philadelphia Flower Show June 5-13, 2021



A Note to the Volunteers — Thanks to all of you for setting up, watching, and watering the DVFW's native wetland garden exhibit this year. Despite rain, dangerous heat, a lightning scare, despite confusion over finding our new location, finding the free remote parking, water cubes, Back of House storage, and evolving educational signage, you made the exhibit possible with your persistence and problem-solving suggestions.

Special thanks to those who came in early or

stayed extra hours to water the exhibit plants.

The 2021 Outdoor Flower Show was a successful fundraiser for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), and an exhibit at the Flower Show is a tradition for our Society since 1977.

Last I heard from PHS, the decision will be made in late summer about whether we will be back in the Convention Center in March 2022. I hope you're able to join the team and support our educational efforts.

Thanks also go to those who made this year's exhibit at the flower show a success. Rick Reynolds wore many hats as Plant Chair and Exhibit co-chair. He, Karen, Tom Tomer and Nanci Ehmer designed and laid the stone foundation in our 12 x 12 location. As chair of the plant committee, he staged his purchases at Gardiner's Nursery, moved them to his house, and took them to the show in the van that Nanci Ehmer, another co-chair, rented. Karen and Brian Mohn



drove from Berks County with their van full of seven bog container gardens to meet up with the rest of the set-up team - Doris, Jackie Mascucchini, Jacqui Mascucchini, Geoffrey Selling, Mary Ann Ziemba, Sharee Solow and Leslie Morris-Smith installed the planting and final design. Rick, Mary Ann, Nanci, and Cassie Fiore and Colin were also on the tear-down team. Flavored seltzer and sandwiches were the fuel that got us through the hard work.

Thanks goes out to those who made this year's exhibit at the flower show a success by joining in bi-weekly planning sessions to hash out the details. Doris Fiorentino offered to do the plant labels. Our display received many



Flower Show (continued from page 3)

compliments and numerous critical accolades thanks to Rick Reynolds and Brian and Karen Mohn.

Behind the scenes Rick had made an initial list of deer resistant plants that would be bloom in late May or early June, and which Karen and Brian confirmed would be growing in areas surrounding the bog plants. But the exhibit must be colorful, so the final selection of plants in bloom were finalized only one or two weeks before the exhibit. Leslie & Janet updated the exhibit nomenclature so Doris Fiorentino could produce the list of plants' labels. On set-up day Doris and Brian finalize the plant names for each of the seven bog container gardens in two exhibit binders. Sign-up Genius helped us recruit and track the open slots, and at show-time the booth sitters swung into action. Twenty-eight members and thirteen from outside the club staffed over fifty slots with many members and some non-members doing double or triple duty. Six helped us from the Rock Garden Society and seven more from two area garden clubs filled in the booth-watching schedule. Thanks goes out to additional members Marice Bezdek, Valarie Schwartz, Joan Faust, Kendra Schieber & Ron Ogden, Cassie Fiore & Colin, Joanne & Joe Patti, Janet & Tom Whitefield, Tom & Janet Tomer, Bernie & Terry Cabana, Dave Shinaly, and Susan Mojaverian for Elane Brody.

The result of our efforts was a steady stream of viewers who were surprised to learn these were plants native to our locale. Informally some horticulturalists declared it the best looking plant exhibit outside of the designed exhibits. Our 32-inch long bog container was featured in the Longwood Gardens blog on the Flower Show.

Article by Leslie Morris-Smith

Photos by Nanci Ehmer unless otherwise indicated.

Barrel Bog Garden photo by Leslie Morris-Smith



Walls are done!

Flower Show Plans for 2022

Every hope is to hold the 2022 Flower Show in the Convention Center, and the decision will be made with City of Philadelphia in late summer or early fall.

PHS was happy to report that by Friday June 11, 100,000 tickets were sold to meet their goal for the show and provide operating funds for projects in 2022. By Sunday night a total of 115,000 tickets were sold. The show was planned remotely by everyone, under strict Covid guidelines, only to come together in May and actually be successful despite new obstacles daily.



Photo of Nanci by Kay Morrisey

Flower Show (Continued from page 4)



Minutes of April 10th Meeting

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

Minutes of the Spring Meeting - April 10, 2021

Via ZOOM 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

After a half hour informal gathering, President Rick Reynolds opened the meeting. Twenty six members attended this meeting, rich with fine photos and much information. First to present were Terry and Bernie Cabana, photographer and speaker respectively, who shared slides and information about most of the 174 species of wildflowers found in Hemlock Haven, their 6 acre home in the woods of Biglerville, in central Pennsylvania. Ninety five percent of these species are indigenous, flowering successively from early spring to late fall. The Cabanas, long time members of DVFWS, invited our members to visit on two Saturdays, April 17 and May 15. Their plant list will be available. Register with the Cabanas at 717-677-9344, bring lunch, and enjoy picnicking and dessert with the Cabanas.

Rick then presided over a short business meeting. Minutes of our November 11, 2020 meeting were approved, as was Alice Blake Simonson's treasurer's report: November's Opening Balance was \$3119.80, Deposits were \$879.00 from membership renewals and \$50.00 from Kendra Schieber to go to Bowman's Hill in memory of her parents, Jack and Rose Marie Schieber. Disbursements went to newsletter expenses and the gift to Bowman's Hill described above. The Closing Balance on April 5, 2021 was \$3794.45. Rick announced that the author of the book he featured in our last newsletter may be available as speaker for a future program, and that on April 27, at 7:30 PM the Maryland Plant Society is sponsoring a webinar. Registration is required.

Then our member, Janet Novak, presented a slide show, "Water, Sand, and Fire" explaining their impacts on the New Jersey Pine Barrens. The Barrens are mostly flat areas, topped with low nutrient sand and gravel soils and pine forests. They can be divided roughly into three zones.

The upland zone features pitch pines, *Pinus rigida*, oaks and huckleberries, with fire resistant characteristics such as burn resistant buds and cones that open only after a fire. At its highest point a pygmy pine forest exists where there have been frequent fires. The middle zone is less dry with shrubby oaks and many species of wildflowers including pink lady slippers, several orchid species, and bird's foot violets. The lowlands have acidic soil, moist from the underlying aquifer. These conditions support a much larger plant community including azaleas, sweet pepperbush, and Pine Barren gentians. In acidic sphagnum bogs grow carnivorous plants such as sundews and pitcher plants which capture and digest insects to obtain nitrates. Fens are less acidic with more soil nutrients. These are the locations to find curly grass ferns, beloved by fern enthusiasts, and bog asphodels.

Janet recommended visiting Webb's Mill Bog, Pakim Pond, Franklin Parker Preserve, and Bombing Range Road, locations noted on the web, in early June, perhaps joining field trip sponsored by the Philadelphia Botanical or Torrey Botanical Clubs. She also described making bog gardens, based upon a mix of 50% peat moss and 50% sand. Carnivorous plants and orchids, even cranberries, are easy to grow.

Our meeting concluded with Leslie Morris-Smith's brief announcement that our Flower Show exhibit, in June, has been moved to a site near the Bonsai Society.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Wilhelm, Secretary

Trip Reports

Hemlock Haven - April 17, 2021 Biglerville, PA

On a cloudy day, Karen & Brian Mohn toured Hemlock Haven with Bernie & Terry Cabana as their host. More than 100 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.

More than twenty (20) species of native flowers were seen as we perused the woods. Some of the more common flowers seen on the tour included: *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's breeches), *Hepatica americana* (Round-leaved Hepatica), *Hepatica acutiloba* (Sharp-leaved Hepatica), *Geranium maculatum* (Wild Geranium), *Asarum canadense* (Wild Ginger), *Anemone quinquefolia* (Rue Anemone), *Anemone thalictroides* (Wood Anemone), *Aquilegia canadensis*



Ladyslipper Orchids in May

(Canada Wild Columbine), *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia bluebells), *Erythronium americanum* (Trout Lily), *Podophyllum peltatum* (May apple), *Trillium Grandiflorum* (Large flower Trillium), *Trillium luteum* and *Trillium cuneatum* (Toad Trilliums), *Claytonia virginica* (Spring beauty), *Myosotis scorpioides* (True Forget-me-not), *Viola pallens* (white Violet), *Viola pubescens* (Downy Yellow Violet), *Dicentra eximia* (Wild Bleeding Heart), *Viola conspersa* (Dog Violet), *Viola papilionacea* (Common Blue Violet), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (Celandine), *Maianthemum canadense*



Iris in May

(Canada Mayflower), *Mitchella repens* Partridgeberry, *Uvularia sessifolia* (Wild Oats), *Phlox divaricate* (Wild Blue Phlox) *Silene carolinia* (Wild Pink) and a *Anemone patens* (Pasqueflower).

As we searched the woodland we found new stands of *Pyrola* (Shinleaf), *Goodyera pubescens* (Rattlesnake Plantain) and *C. umbellata* (Pipsissewa) on the property, Numerous ferns were also found i.e., *Onoclea sensibilis* (Sensitive Fern), *Botrychium virginium* (Rattlesnake Fern), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas Fern) and *Polypodium vulgare* (Polypody Fern).

Article and photos by Bernie Cabana



Lewisia in May

Leaser Lake —May 8, 2021



Members of DVFWS travelled to the base of Blue Mountain in Northeast Lehigh County for a wildflower walk at Leaser Lake. From the North boat Launch we headed East on Bicentennial trail through a grove of open woods. Immediately we encountered a variety of Spring ephemerals:

trout lily, spring beauty, bluets, violets, dwarf ginseng and rue anemone to name a few. The trail leads into a rocky woods with several mountain streams flowing towards the lake. This relatively small area is made up of several microhabitats which adds to the diversity of plant species. The timing for the walk capitalized on the blooming of the Fringed Polygala, Pink Lady's Slippers and Showy orchis. The streams were lined were flowering miterwort and false hellebore, but we were early for the trillium and post bloom for the round lobed hepatica. The emerged ferns we saw were; Wood, Lady, Evergreen, New York, Sensitive, Ostrich, Rattlesnake and Hay Scented.

Across the road in the big woods of the State Game Lands one could walk circles around the boulders and trees and find endless number of plant species.

We enjoyed sharing this area with friends and bears. It is a great place to see migrating warblers and a variety of wildlife.

Members on the walk: Rick Reynolds, Tom, Janice, Grace & Amelia Tomer, Leslie M-S, Sandy McNicol, Cassandra Fiore and friend Collin, Brian & Karen Mohn.



Hemlock Haven—May 15, 2021

On a sunny day, Fran Koch (Biglerville Garden Club) and Leslie Morris-Smith toured Hemlock Haven with Bernie & Terry Cabana as their host. A highlight of Hemlock Haven was *Lewisia cotyledon* (Lewisia), *Orchis spectabilis* (Showy Orchis) and a stand of *Polygala paucifolia* (Gaywings).

Many species of native flowers were seen as we perused the woods. Some of the more common flowers seen on the tour included: *Geranium maculatum* (Wild Geranium), *Asarum canadense* (Wild Ginger), *Anemone quinquefolia* (Rue Anemone), *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia bluebells), *Podophyllum peltatum* (May apple), *Trillium Grandiflorum* (Large flower Trillium),

Article by Brian Mohn
Photos by Tom Tomer

Trip Reports (Continued from page 8)

Trillium luteum and *Trillium cuneatum* (Toad Trilliums), *Claytonia virginica* (Spring beauty), *Myosotis scorpioides* (True Forget-me-not), *Viola pallens* (white Violet), *Viola pubescens* (Downy YellowViolet), *Dicentra eximia*, (Wild Bleeding Heart), *Viola conpersa* (Dog Violet), *Viola papilioacea* (Common Blue Violet), *Maianthemum canadense* (Canada Mayflower), *Mitchella repens* (Partridgeberry), *Phlox divaricate* (Wild Blue Phlox) *Silene carolinia* (Wild Pink), *Iris lacustris alba* (Dwarf White Iris), *Dodecatheon meadia* (Shooting Star), *Amsonia tabernamontana* (Dwarf Blue Star). *Aralia nudicaulis* (Wild Sarsaparilla), *Chryso-gonum virginianum* (Golden Star "Pierre") and *Aquilegia canadensis* "Corbett," ("Corbett" Wild Columbine). As we searched the woodland numerous ferns were also found i.e., *Onoclea sensibilis* (Sensitive Fern), *Botrychium virginium* (Rattlesnake Fern), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas Fern) and *Polypodium vulgare* (Polypody Fern).

A highlight of the day was a side trip to Michaux State Park with Fran Koch where we photographed *Iris verna* (Dwarf Iris) and 100's of *Cypripedium acaule* (Pink Lady Slippers). The latter required bush-whacking through Michaux SP forest.

Article and Photos on page 7 by Bernie Cabana

Member News

A special welcome our new and returning members:

Barb Helpin
Ann Hoffenberg
Mary Tipping (returning member)
Inge Williams

Contact information can be found in the Membership Directory that has been updated and is attached to this e-mail newsletter.

Janet Whitefield has retired as Newsletter Editor. She and Tom have some ongoing medical problems and they are also trying to downsize in preparation for a move to a cottage in a continuing care retirement community in Harleysville. Kendra Schieber has kindly agreed to edit the newsletter as an interim for two years. Please consider stepping in as her term ends in 2023.

Janet will continue along with treasurer Alice-Blake Simonson to update the membership list on excel and publish the PDF Membership Directory .

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

Field Trips: David Lauer

DML1000@comcast.net

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

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:

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**Webmaster: Leslie Morris-Smith
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