Our Society has suffered a severe lost by the recent passing of two of our members -- Lois Brooks and Jack Schieber. As you read the remembrances by their friends, you will feel just how much the Society meant to them and how great their loss is to the Society.

I didn’t have much contact with Lois but I couldn't not notice how much she contributed to every activity of the Society.

I first met Jack when he and RoseMarie joined the Society in 1991. We were constant companions on many of our local field trips. Later together with Otto Heck and John DeMarrais we explored many fern locations in New Jersey and New York. We were both members of the British Pteridological Society and Hardy Fern Society and attended six 11-14 day field trips throughout the US. On the last trip in the southeast, Jack and I drove to Atlanta together and shared a room. He was a true gentleman, added a great deal to the Fern Society, and I will miss him greatly.

The fall meeting will be at Morris Arboretum on Saturday, November 18 at 10 AM. The speaker will be announced. Michael Brooks is working on the field trip schedule and it should be scoped out by the meeting. Your suggestions for field trips would be welcomed. Send your suggestions to me or Michael. My thanks to RoseLynn Malarek for the report of the summer get together at the Schieber's. The discussions can continue at the November meeting.

John Scott
On a beautiful summer’s morning, about a dozen friends and members of DVFWS met for a guided tour of Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve outside of New Hope, PA. Our leader and gracious host was Jack Schieber.

Our guide led us off from the Visitor Center where we observed prickly pear and an unusual St. John’s wort. We wandered down a wooded path spotting wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) and cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis). We soon arrived at New Pond, so called because it replaced the Old Pond which was destroyed by Hurricane Irene back in 2011. Rather than trying to rebuild the pond in the original location, engineers decided to build a new pond in a better location not prone to periodic flooding. In 2013, the establishment of New Pond, along with the surrounding patio and spring house, was complete. The planting around the pond and spring house are, of course, all native, and while they were hand-planted, they look very natural and very much at home. Some of the plants around and in the pond include pickerel weed (Pontederia cordata), white water lily (Nymphaea sp.), blue flag iris (Iris versicolor), Joe-Pye weed (Eutrochium purpureum), short-toothed mountain mint (Pycanthemum muticum), button bush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), and hop hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana).

Although the pond is manmade, it has quickly attracted all kinds of wildlife. We found it amusing to see a turtle sharing a rock at the side of the pond with a very large black snake.

Next, we walked through the Preserve’s meadow, just outside the entrance gate. The meadow is carefully maintained by annual mowing to deter growth of woody plants. Sedges, rushes, wildflowers (rattlesnake master, black-eyed Susans, milkweed, among others), and blackberries grow in profusion.

Following our tour, members drove to the home of Jack and Rose Marie Schieber for a delightful and delicious picnic. Jack is a longtime fern fan, and his collection of ferns is magnificent.

Our president, John Scott, presided over a business meeting following the

(Continued on page 3)
picnic. One of John’s concerns, and one with which many at the meeting agreed, is the need to showcase ferns more, in both field trips and speakers. This is a goal that will be getting future attention. The other major topic of discussion was the participation of DVFWS at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Tom Tomer, after many years of outstanding leadership, decided it was time to retire as Project Manager. Unfortunately, no member has taken up the challenge of replacing Tom, and so DVFWS will not be participating in the Show this coming year. Many suggestions followed on how DVFWS might participate in future Shows. Tom put forth the idea of going outside the Society to look for a horticulturalist who might be interested in taking over the role of Project Manager for DVFWS. Tom has contacts within PHS who might provide a lead in finding such a person. Another idea was to contact the Horticultural Department of local universities such as Temple, Delaware Valley University, and the University of Delaware to find someone, such as a graduate student, who might be interested. It is hoped this approach will bear fruition.

Our tour of Bowman’s Hill, the hospitality of the Schiebers (Thank you Jack and Rose Marie!), the ferns, and the positive ideas that came out of the business meeting made for a productive and very enjoyable day.

RoseLynn Malarek  (written prior to Jack’s death)

Re the Flower Show:

Tom Tomer reports we've personally contacted 3 DVFWS members, enlisted the help of PHS, and we haven't been able to land a project manager yet. It doesn't look good for 2018.

Hardy Plant Society Plant Sale

On a sunny August 25th, John Scott and Rick Reynolds took our banner and some potted ferns and went to the Plant Sale at Freedom’s Foundation in Valley Forge. Several of our members were seen there buying plants. But, John and Rick were not selling ferns! They were giving them away to anyone who wanted to join DVFWS. As a result, we gained the five new members listed on page 10. The ferns for give-away to new members were donated by Main Line Gardens (Malvern, PA) where Rick works. Also, John and Rick provided ferns and other natives from their respective gardens.

Thank you John and Rick for your time well spent in the hot sun.
Lois always told me that her direction in life was set in the sixth grade when the teacher required members of the class to choose a favorite figure among our founding fathers. Long Island City in Queens was a progressive, left-wing kind of place and every other member of the class quickly choose Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Bill of Rights who foresaw a basically agrarian America. Lois without hesitation chose Alexander Hamilton, who demanded a strong national bank and foresaw an America of industries and cities.

The cities were key. She grew up taking long—I mean really long—walks with her father, often starting near his law office in lower Manhattan and finally ending in Queens or even the South Bronx.

Lois and I explored New York and then Toronto, where I did graduate work. We moved back to New York City, where Lois did graduate work in urban history, and then to Philadelphia, where she took a special interest in the ruins of north Philly and the great, but now deserted factory buildings that had once absorbed thousands of immigrants.

Cities were important and so were museums. She had, after all, graduated from the High School of Music and Art. By the time she was sixteen she knew the floor plan of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and she had learned to look down on the Museum of Modern Art as a basically conservative institution.

So where, you might well ask, did she develop a need for nature. Basically the nature we knew until we moved to Wayne was Manhattan’s Central Park.

But almost as soon as we arrived in the Delaware Valley she discovered a little yellow booklet describing the Horse-Shoe Trail. We began taking weekend walks and as they grew longer and longer we started to call them hikes.

Then we found the Chester County Trail Club.

And I specifically recall the afternoon when Lois came back from the Philadelphia Flower Show and told me that she had discovered an entire organization devoted to ferns and wildflowers.

And her pleasure in the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society went along with her volunteer work at Tyler Arboretum and her love of hiking with the Mill Grove Audubon group.

None of this involved a rejection of cities. On our last trip she wanted to explore Chicago and Seattle as well as Yellowstone and the Olympic Rain Forest.

Lois felt a need for balance, and in the modern world you sometimes have to consciously work to achieve it. She took pleasure in watching her two sons and five grandchildren strive for the same balance.

Michael
If Lois Brooks had had a motto tattooed on her arm, it would have read Carpe Diem (“Seize the Day”). Busy, dynamic, and fully engaged with life is how I remember Lois; and that is why her sudden death is such a shock. It was not in the game plan.

Lois was pleased with her age, and, I think, a little surprised. Here she was, an octogenarian still climbing mountains. I last saw Lois in July at the DVFWS field trip at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve. The rest of us took a slow, gentle walk around the Preserve while Lois hiked up to and down from the Bowman Tower, as always pushing herself to her limit, and perhaps a bit beyond. A foot injury a few years ago slowed her down (and annoyed her), but certainly didn’t stop her. Upward and onward as always.

Lois talked about her and Michael’s upcoming camping trip across the United States. They would travel “North by Northwest” with a southern detour to view the solar eclipse. Lois was amused - a hundred mile detour to view a 2 minute show, but that was okay. In Lois’s view, to take part in what life has to offer, detours must be taken. It would be foolish not to.

At one time, Lois was a field trip leader at Audubon. If her charges thought they were taking a pleasant walk in the park, they soon found out otherwise. Sooner or later, Lois would lead her group off the path and head cross country into the fields and meadows, in order, she said, “to get them out of their comfort zone.” This is typical of Lois’s Carpe Diem philosophy. The well-worn, easy path is not always the best path. To discover what the world truly has to offer, it is necessary to veer off the beaten track, face the risks, accept the challenges, test oneself, and reap the just rewards. This is what makes life worth living, and this is how I remember Lois Brooks.

Carpe Diem, Lois, and God speed. RoseLynn

Tributes to Lois

Front row:  RoseLynn Malarek, Lois Brooks, David Lauer, Michael Brooks
Back Row:  David Malarek, Brian Mohn, Karen Mohn, Terry and Bernie Cabana

(Continued on page 9)
Remembering Jack

John R. “Jack” Schieber, Jr. of Holland, PA passed away on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. He was 92. He was the devoted husband of Rose Marie, his companion for more than 70 years. Jack graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He worked at Betz Laboratories in Trevose, PA for 35 years, solving industrial water treatment problems. A veteran of World War II, he continued to work for peace and justice throughout his life. Jack was an avid outdoorsman, nature lover, explorer, a leader, a music lover, and a student of religious thought and practices. He was a beloved and long time member of the Mohawk Canoe Club, BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the DVFWS and was active in numerous community endeavors. In addition to his wife, Jack is survived by 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Relatives and friends are invited to join his family at a Memorial Service on Monday, October 16th at 11 am at the BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2040 Street Road, Warrington, PA. Contributions may be made in his memory to Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, 1635 River Rd, New Hope, PA 18938.

I have known Jack and Rose Marie since they joined DVFSWS in 1991. From the beginning, they immediately became an integral part of the Society, participating in all of our activities and trips, and helping out in every way possible. And, of course, we have all seen and admired his fern garden, of which he was justifiably so very proud.

We shall sorely miss Jack Schieber!

Alice Blake

Jack was President of DVFWS in 1995-96. He had planned many of our multiday forays to VT, OH, VA, etc, scouting the trips beforehand to arrange appropriate hikes and accommodations. Jack was especially helpful at Flower Show time with his Suburban and garden cart to transport ferns to the Convention Center, and also help with painting scenery, set up, and take down. He always brought his huge maidenhair fern to add a focus to our display at the Flower Show. JW

Jack’s enthusiasm and passion for ferns and his extensive knowledge about them went beyond being impressive; it was awesome. He loved field trips – rain, sun, cold, hot. Didn’t matter. He was ready to go. Jack was special – kind, considerate, generous, the consummate gentleman. I never heard him say one disparaging word about anyone or anything. Although Jack was never one to seek the limelight or dominate a discussion, whenever he spoke, everyone listened with respect and appreciation. Jack loved ferns surely, but he also loved people, and especially he loved DVFWS. To me, Jack Schieber was the anchor of the Society. He will be greatly missed.

RoseLynn
I live in England and my main interests are the United Reformed Church, Steam Railways and Ferns.

Jack Schieber unknown to me, joined the British Pteridological Society (The Fern Society) in the late 1990s. He decided to come to Great Britain with Rose Marie and contacted me to ask if there was a Fern Society meeting during his time over here. Just by chance there was and I sent him details; the meeting was in Teesdale, County Durham.

I drove up to that meeting with my friend Paul with whom I have studied ferns and Jack and Rose Marie were there, and he introduced himself to me. We had a splendid weekend together. Paul and I were able to show Jack the differences between our native ferns, and were surprised that Jack knew quite a few of them. It turned out he was a great grower of ferns. I think Jack found our country lanes a little narrow and asked us if Rose Marie and he could travel with us. Late on the Sunday after the meeting we said our goodbyes with the Schiebers who were heading to Scotland. By a roundabout route Jack had gotten a message through to us via my wife to ask whether we had found Rose Marie’s camera with the whole holiday’s pictures on it in our car. Going out we found it and managed to post it to a friend they were going to stay with in Glasgow. The post delivered, I am pleased to report.

Forward a few years and The Fern Society and the Hardy Fern Foundation of Seattle were starting to develop a closer union for meetings and after a successful one in Seattle, John Scott offered one in Pennsylvania. Jack and Rose Marie were part of this and we went back to their beautiful home for dinner one day, followed by a tour of his wonderful garden. I can still remember what a delight Jack’s garden was and especially a bed in the back lawn which was filled with beautiful ferns with a center-piece of the statuesque Dryopteris × australe. It has taken me many a year, but through a mutual friend of Jack’s and mine, Naud Burnett of Casa Flora Nursery, I now have a specimen, but fear it may be a year or two before mine reaches Jack’s size.

Another two years and it was my time to organize a meeting, and we had a meeting in Germany lead by Berndt Peters who has the largest collection of hardy ferns in the world. On arrival at the hotel with our small group from England, the first people I met were Jack and Rose Marie and after an hour to settle we had a little lunch and spent the afternoon together at the Hamburg Botanical Gardens. The next day the tour began and Berndt lead us around the best Fern Gardens in Germany along with some of the nicest (Continued on page 8)

I was so pleased that Jack and Rose Marie could make it down here (Virginia) in 2015. I think Jack must have reminded me of my father. Quiet, deeply caring, brilliant. He shared a bit of his philosophy with me, even sent me a favorite book of his. He was much more than a super botanist to me.

Gary Fleming and I wanted Jack to see our mystery fern (Dryopteris x clintoniana). When he studied the fern you knew no one else could apply such a wealth of knowledge to the possible identification of a plant. You were so lucky to have years in the field with him. A true loving gentleman.

Chip Morgan
wild places to see ferns. It was in the scenic limestone area that we lost Jack and Naud. Two of us were about to set off to retrace our steps to find them, when the pair was spotted coming nonchalantly from another direction blissfully unaware of the panic the leadership had been caused. Jack had looked forward to this particular trip especially because he and I think Rose Marie had German ancestors around grandparent times.

Later our friend Naud arranged a fern tour of Texas and we all met up again. Here Jack and I enjoyed the xeric ferns and I was able to learn so much of American life and wild life from Jack as well as realizing what an active life Jack still lead backpacking and kayaking with his son in the wilderness despite approaching 80 years of age. He introduced us especially to the wild life and we learned a lot of the habits of the wild turkey that wandered by as we rested waiting for the rest of the group to catch up.

Our most exotic trip together was to Costa Rica lead by my friend Klaus Mehltreter where we were all lost by the sheer number of ferns we saw each day. Jack, Paul, and I shared an apartment for the fortnight and Jack was always interested to see Paul and I either identifying the day’s specimens or arguing about the pictures we had taken, before we all set off for the evening meal. We had such fascinating conversations on the contrasting ways of life in Britain and America and generally putting the world to rights. Jack negotiated a day off as a friend was close at hand and they were to go kayaking together. I do not know exactly how old Jack was then. However, when we returned from the field, Jack had been disappointed as he was unable to meet up with his friend.

In California, we saw a completely different group of ferns on a tour lead by Dan Yansura and Sue Olsen. The dry season lasts for 4 or 5 months and it was quite strange seeing Adiantums that we usually kill in our homes by forgetting to water growing so strongly towards the end of the dry season. We drove up the coast until close to the Oregon border where we saw the ferns of the giant redwood forests along with a few gardens and botanic gardens. The species of ferns grown looked to me like they had come from another planet. We then crossed and continued down the central valley to the really xeric region where David Swartz took us into a really dry region and the next day to his garden in Bakersfield where he grows the finest of collections of xeric ferns I have ever seen. On the way back up the Pacific Coast we found ourselves at our boarding place close to Monterey. Checking the maps, we found that we could pass through Cannery Row. It was through Jack and my love of the books of John Steinbeck that we managed to convince the group that with a small diversion we could see the setting of two of Steinbeck’s most famous books Cannery Row and the sequel Sweet Thursday.

“Our most humble, fun filled, and generous friend lead a most adventurous and extremely full life until the very end.”

I haven’t seen Jack since our fern tour of the Appalachian Mountains but we kept in touch over the wires occasionally. In 2012, he e-mailed me to ask if I could send him, a picture of a typically English country pub. Locally we have the Old George, Shoreham, Kent, which is often used in one brewers, television adverts so I went across to photograph it for him. Jack used this image to build a set for the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society Flower Show exhibit in March 2013. The Old George became The Fox and the Fern Inn. He sent me some pictures and then wrote a short article for the Pteridologist for me.

His friends in Great Britain are so sad to hear of his passing but were strongly of the opinion that our most humble, fun filled, and generous friend had lead a most adventurous and extremely full life until the very end.

Pat Acock
Lois Tributes

It was such a shock to hear of Lois's sudden death on September 1st in Oregon. She was buried on September 3rd in NYC. She was so vibrant and active. I had just gotten an e-mail from her on August 27th saying they were on a cross country camping trip and had seen the eclipse and were heading to the rainforest in Washington. I got to know Lois through correspondence about DVFS as she was our Membership chair. She was always ready to lend a hand, a little advice on grammar in the newsletter, or encouragement. She once said to me, "If you want something done, ask a busy person!" And a busy person she was! She will be greatly missed. I remember her wonderful sense of humor and great smile.

Janet Whitefield

I enjoyed Lois. She was genuinely refreshing; you always got a clear, direct message from Lois. She had the best interest of the Society at heart and gave her best when she was called on to do something. I really appreciated her support for the Flower Show; it was consistent over the years and encouraging to me personally. Lois was especially helpful during set-up, able to take the initiative and stick with it to the end.

Tom Tomer

Lois was always there to help with the Flower Show. She and Michael covered a number of slots for sitting at the show. She was also a greeter or information person at the show for PHS.

Both Michael and Lois were avid hikers and enjoyed going to the various arboretums in the area.

I knew her from work. She worked for GSK in the corporate facilities engineering department.

Clara Bondinell

About DVFS

The purpose of DVFS 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.

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

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

Webmaster: Leslie Morris-Smith leslm5791@gmail.com
Member News

We would like to welcome new members who joined or changed contact information since our July Newsletter. The information has been added to the Membership Directory which you are receiving with this e-mailing. Please remember the information in the directory is to be shared only within the Society. The date following your name is the year your dues are payable at the November 18th meeting. If it indicates 2017, please mail or bring your dues with you.

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