From our New President

My first request as your new president is to ask all members to consider what their participation in the Society will be and what you would like to get from the Society. Without a little of each, the Society can’t provide what you want or expect.

Over the years I have been in a large number of organizations. I've served in almost every elective, appointed and volunteer position. I've seen a pattern in the nature of the membership: Some people join clubs - and that is ok. Some people are journal or newsletter members - and that is ok. Others want to go to meetings to get out of the house - and that is ok. Others want lectures. Others want walks. We are very lucky to have a number of members who have provided leadership, come forward to share their expertise, and many who have done the grunt work. I don't know if it is practical, but as the last surviving founding member (only because I was the youngest) I would like to see a return to more emphasis on ferns.

There is nothing wrong with being a fern and wildflower society, but we were founded by a small group of fern enthusiasts as a fern society. Our Flower Show exhibits have always emphasized that.

Finally, I have been relatively inactive the last couple of years. So to get up to speed I will be meeting with the past officers and chairs to get their input on where we, as a Society are heading. It is clear that from a technical standpoint the constitution needs some updating.

As a note on ferns: They seem to be a lot smarter than their plant relatives. They weren't fooled by the weather. They don't poke their fiddleheads up only to be covered by eighteen inches of snow! They know when it’s time.

John Scott
WHAT’S NEW! March 18, 2017 Meeting

Minutes of DVFWS meeting March 18, 2017 at the Morris Arboretum, 10 am to 1 pm
Attendance: 35 members and guests

PROGRAM: Program Chairman, Terry Cabana opened the meeting by introducing our speaker, Przemek Walezah, horticulturist at Chanticleer, who told a fascinating story with excellent photographs, of his 20 years’ work in four acres of thriving woodland plants, native to the eastern United States. Featuring plants from the phyla of liverworts, mosses, ferns, and flowering plants, both woody and herbaceous, this carefully designed landscape has exceptional beauty during all seasons. Asked which is the best time to visit, he quickly responded, “Every two weeks!”, which emphasizes the ever-changing growth and blooms of hundreds of species, planted to draw attention to color, shape, and texture of stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits to delight the eyes of visitors.

BUSINESS MEETING: was brought to order by president Karen Mohn.

Minutes of November 18, 2016 meeting, published in the Newsletter were approved with no changes.

Treasurer’s Report (read by Janet Whitefield for treasurer Alice-Blake Simonson who was unable to attend).

Checking account balance at last report on 11/18/16 $1730.82
Deposits – dues only 465.00
Expenses – Morris Arboretum room donation, Website renewal, newsletter expense 90.98
Balance on 3/15/17 $2104.84
Respectfully submitted,
Alice-Blake Simonson, treasurer

Old Business

DVFWS Banner -Karen and Lois Brooks will work together to create a one sentence mission statement for a banner which will be used to identify our organization at various plant sales and gatherings.

New Business

Field trips - Karen read through a 2017 trip schedule, which was discussed and modified by suggestions. A revised list will be published in the April newsletter.

2018 Flower Show – To expressions of interest in reviving a DVFWS Flower Show Committee for entering a DVFWS exhibit in the 2018 Flower Show, former Flower Show Chairperson, Tom Tomer emphasized that identifying a new chair person to be the Project Manager must come first. September 1, 2017 is the deadline for submitting a plan for the 2018 show with the theme of “Water”. Tom is ready and willing to advise and help a new chair person who must be in place before a new committee can form. No one stepped forward to take on this demanding job; plenty of volunteers are available to help anyone who will take on this position. Commitment by June 1 is necessary. A volunteer for this position would be welcomed.

Suggestions for any future exhibits are: 1) elevate the plants for easier viewing, 2) design the exhibit with plants on either side of a central walk way, 3) forcing ferns is too difficult; fully grown ferns are too expensive to buy; renting ferns seems a better way to go, 4) Hugelkulture, planting in a mound of decomposing plant material, might be an interesting theme for an exhibit.

(Continued on page 3)
Morris Arboretum 2017 Plant Sale is May 11-13. “Pollinators” is the theme; perennials will be highlighted. Karen reminded us of the Arboretum’s generosity in giving us space for meetings and free access to the grounds on our meeting days, and encouraged us to sign up to work at the plant sale. She then introduced Jessica Slade, the Arboretum horticulturist for the natural areas (woods, wetland, meadow) and section leader for perennials at the sale, who will order the ferns for the sale from local nurseries. DVFWS members can email her with suggestions for ferns to purchase, and volunteer to work at the sale in the Perennial section by emailing Jess at jslade@upen.edu. Jess is also the new liaison for DVFWS meetings at Morris Arboretum.

Other plant sales: Volunteers are needed to staff our booth. It was suggested that free ferns be given to those who sign up for DVFWS membership.
- Barnes Arboretum Sale, early May- John Scott
- Hardy Plant Society Sale, mid August - John Scott and Rick Reynolds
- Jenkins Arboretum

The Millersville Plant Conference occurs on June 7 and 8, 2017. Karen plans to attend one of the two days, leaving the second day open for another attender. We voted to spend $300 for admission to the conference for Karen and Terry Cabana and for presenting a logo as a non-profit sponsor of the Conference.

Election of Officers:
The slate of candidates put forward by the Nominating Committee was unanimously accepted. New officers are: John Scott, President; Michael Brooks, Vice President; Donna Wilhelm, Secretary; and Alice Blake Simonson, Treasurer

Resigning president, Karen Mohn, graciously stepped down from the office she has so ably and creatively held for six years. Those present thanked her gratefully and profusely for the excellent leadership and hard work she has given to our group.

The meeting adjourned before 1:00 P.M. Members then enjoyed a short time of fellowship, with delicious food and drink organized by Mary Carr.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wilhelm, Secretary

The Beauty of Moss

Moss came up in our speaker's presentation as he showed a few areas of his woodland garden that had a nice moss cover. When asked about growing moss, his reply was to let it grow naturally, although Przemek Walezah did mention that he had a thin wire beneath it to keep the wildlife from tearing it up. Przemek also said moss does not get nutrients from the soil per se but from the moisture in the air, and the moss on the mushroom to the right proves that. RoseLynn Malarek was kind enough to share this March 2017 picture of native and volunteer moss growing on their concrete mushroom. She comments, "All we did was keep it in the shade and water it along with our patio plants in the summer, which was almost every day."
Seven intrepid members of the DVFWS joined Link Davis at Evansburg State Park, Montgomery County, on the chilly morning of Sunday, February 26th, for an exploration of winter botany. The walk was short in distance but covered a lot of ground in subject matter because at each third step we found another well-preserved survivor of last summer’s bounty.

Among our many finds: dried stalks of Evening Primrose, Curley Dock, Virginia Stickseed, White Vervain, Moneywort, Moth Mullein, Queen Anne’s Lace, Pokeweed, White Avens, St. Johnswort, and, of course, last year’s Goldenrods.

We compared the siliques of Yellow Rocket, Yellow Mustard, and Garlic Mustard – three members of the mustard family that have slightly different structures of the seed pods.

We sampled the distinctive odors of dried Mountain Mint and Annual Artemisia.

We compared three kinds of galls (Ball Galls, Bunch Galls, and Elliptical Galls) that can be found on Goldenrods.

We talked a lot about invasive plants and though I have only used common names in this report, Link was especially enlightening in explaining the rationale behind each Latin name.

And though it was still February, we found Lesser Celandine and Bittercress already in bloom. Link promised blooming Speedwells further down the trail but given the temperature, we agreed to adjourn to Tom and Janet Whitefield’s home for excellent soup and bread.

In attendance: Edie Parnum, Rick Reynolds, Donna Wilhelm, Tom and Janet Whitefield, Michael and Lois Brooks.

—Submitted by Michael Brooks
—Photo Tom Whitefield
The field trip to Mt. Cuba on Saturday, April 1st was enjoyed by members Janet and Tom Whitefield, Karen Mohn, Lois Brooks, Doris Fiorentino, and guests Hurle and Paul Waldman.

It was the opening day of the 2017 season. Mt. Cuba has been a center for conservation and preservation since 1935, but has only been open to the public for 7 years. They focus on the native plants of the Delaware Piedmont region which extends from New Jersey down into the Carolinas.

We began the visit with a brief video that reviewed the history of the house and gardens. Established to inspire and educate visitors about the beauty and value of native plants of the region, the gardens feature meadows, forests, and woodlands, and are home to some of the most spectacular displays of wildflowers in the mid-Atlantic region.

Mt. Cuba Center’s display gardens are spread over 50 acres. Docents Karen and Sandy led us on a tour that included the Woods Path, the West Slope Path, the Pond Path, the Dogwood Path and the Trillium Garden. We ended with a walk through the Trial Garden and then through the South Garden and back to the house.

As it was early in the spring, with not many recent warm sunny days, many of the natives were not yet in bloom but were displaying their foliage. We saw a number of early wildflowers including Blood-root, Fraser’s Sedge, Rock Polypody, Blue Bells, Oconee Bells, Lady Slippers, American Bugbane, Dwarf Larkspur, Trout Lily, Allegheny Pachysandra, Jacob’s Ladder, Royal Ferns just beginning to unfurl, Purple Pitcher Plant along the pond’s edge, Fragrant Mountain Mint, Early Trilliums, Toad Shade Trillium, Spotted Trilliums, and more.

We ended our tour back at the house where we were introduced to their research on native plants and the reports they provide to the public. They also offer a number of educational programs.

Afterwards some of us headed to Buckley Tavern for conversation and lunch.

Report and photos submitted by Doris Fiorentino
Upcoming Field Trips 2017

Please note that field trips begin at 10 am at the appointed meeting place, unless otherwise stated in the description. Most trips last approximately 2 hours. If it is a nice day, you might want to bring your lunch. Notify the trip leader if you plan on attending, and please feel free to provide feedback that may enhance our offerings to Karen Mohn, at papatrees@aol.com

April 20, Thursday, 10AM: Shenk’s Ferry, Lancaster County, PA

A weekday trip to the Susquehanna River. Shenk’s Ferry is one of the most popular, impressive wildflower areas in the eastern United States. The main trail is on fairly flat terrain and is about a mile long, following Grubb Run. Some of the more common flowers include Dutchman’s Breeches, Wild Ginger, Virginia Bluebells, Trillium and Spring Beauty. We will meet at the trail head at 10am to start our walk. Karen Mohn is the leader (610-207-6851)

Directions: allow 2 hours  GPS coordinates:  N 39.902328  W 76.366719

- 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)
- Drive through Strasburg, PA
- When Route 741 turns to the right west of Strasburg, drive straight ahead onto Miller St.
- When you come to Hagers Road turn RIGHT.
- The road will turn left and become Penn Grant Road.
- Stay on Penn Grant Road through the covered bridge.
- Drive past Routes 222, both roads that are also numbered 272 and 324.
- Turn LEFT onto New Danville Pike (not onto Silver Mine Road).
- Drive to the town of Conestoga and drive past the restaurant on your right.
- Stay to the left and drive onto River Corner Rd. when the road splits at the “Y.”
- Drive past River Road. (The first sign for Shenks Ferry is on this corner.)
- Follow all 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.

April 29, Saturday, 10AM: Hemlock Haven, Biglerville, PA

Members Bernie and Terry Cabana welcome all members of DVFWS to visit their property "Hemlock Haven." Their home is about 2 1/2 hours from most of our members in the Delaware Valley. Most of the property is easy walking; you might want to wear boots or sturdy shoes as the ground is often wet near the creek.

Native wild flowers abound. You will see a great variety of trillium, rue anemone, round leaf hepatica, bleeding heart, polygala, shooting star, iris versicolor, trout lily, wild geranium, showy orchid including alba, columbine, gay-wing, crested dwarf iris, teaberry, and many more.
Bring a lunch. Plan your arrival at 10 am. Terry and Bernie will provide beverage and snacks on their covered porch following the morning walk. After lunch there is the option to explore other areas in the vicinity, either Michaux State Forest (along Mountain Creek) or the Conewago Creek area. Those of us who went last year know what a treat this day will be! It is definitely worth the drive.

Please call or e-mail Cabanas by April 27th so they know how many to expect and let them know if you intend to continue with them in the afternoon 717-677-9344 NDSI@aol.com

Directions: allow 2 1/2 hours. For GPS use 260 Boyds Hollow Rd., Biglerville
OR, take PA Turnpike west to Gettysburg (Exit 236) Take Route 15 south to Route 234

- Turn right onto Route 234 west towards Biglerville
- Stay on Route 234 approximately 13 miles.
- Just past Coles Campground bear right onto Shippensburg Road, leaving Route 234.
- Drive 0.5 miles to Boyds Hollow Road on right (near a red barn)
- Drive 0.5 miles to 260 Boyds Hollow Rd. on left.
  Park in the field unless raining.

May 13, Saturday, 10am: Leaser Lake, Lehigh County, PA

Our docent, Nancy Wisser, a local naturalist, will take us on a venture at a locale she enjoys visiting. Leaser Lake offers beautiful views of the “Blue Mountain” and familiar wildflowers of spring. We will meet at the northern boat launch parking lot at 10AM. Our leader is Karen Mohn (610-207-6851)

Directions: allow 1 1/2 hours GPS Coordinates: N 40.679043 W 75.836162

- Take interstate route 78 west of Allentown
- Exit off to route 143 north at Lenhartsville.
- Follow route 143 north 8 miles thru Wanamakers.
- Take left onto Ontelaunee Trail and follow this road around the north shore
- The boat launch will be on the left.

May 20, Saturday, New York Botanical Garden, and High Line Tour, NYC

High Line is a park converted from an out-of-use railroad trestle to a public garden. It is located on Manhattan just south of the Lincoln Tunnel. The species of perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees were chosen for their hardiness, sustainability, and textural and color variation, with a focus on native species. There is a free hour tour at 10AM, Gansevoort entrance, "From Freight to Flowers."

Lunch, then over to the NY Botanical Garden in the Bronx. ($22 Sr.-$25 adult) Enjoy the wildflower garden and bog garden. The peonies may be in full bloom. We will be arranging public transportation. Please contact Karen Mohn (610-207-6851) with your desire to go ASAP, deadline is May 10th.
June 7–10 Native Plants in the Landscape Conference, Millersville University

Karen Mohn and Terry Cabana will be representing DVFWS at a table with our information on Friday and Saturday. We are also a sponsor of the event. You can see the program schedule and register by visiting the website http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org/. The native plant sale is open to the public:

Friday, June 9, 2017: 4:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, June 10, 2017: 8:00am – 12:00noon

July 8, Saturday, 10am: Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery County, PA

An intergenerational outing. Bring your children, grandchildren, a young neighbor, or the young at heart. We will take a casual walk on a shady trail along the Green Lane Reservoir. Age appropriate scavenger hunts will be designed for the children, which will help us all to appreciate the beauty of this park. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards. The park has boat rentals if you want to extend your stay. There is also the Perkiomen bike trail which runs through the park. Leader: Karen Wolfe, high school biology teacher, former park naturalist, outdoor enthusiast. Please notify Karen the ages of the children you are bringing by July 4th. kwhitefieldf@yahoo.com 610-724-8359 cell

Directions: allow an hour, Green Lane, GPS coordinates N 40.34364  W 075.49307 or follow directions below. The Snyder Rd. address on their web site is not our meeting area. Our exact meeting location will be off of Hill Rd. There is a large parking area where the boat rental office is.

- From the Lansdale Exit of PA NE Extension Turnpike (Rt 476)
- Turn west on Rt. 63 (Sumneytown Pike.)
- Go 9 miles to the traffic light in Green Lane.
- Turn right on 29 North.
- Go 0.1 miles and turn left onto Hill Rd.
- Continue on Hill Rd. across a bridge and up a hill, bearing right at the fork.
- Go 1 mile to entrance of park on the right.
- We will meet at the far end of this lot, not the office end.

July 15: Bowman’s Hill and Schiebers’ Garden, Bucks County, PA

Bowman’s Hill, where mind, heart and spirit bloom: offers many trails and environs to view various summer natives. We will meet at Bowman’s at 10am for an informal tour then head to the Schiebers’ garden afterwards. Jack and Rose Marie have invited us to enjoy their gardens followed by lunch at their home. Contact Jack for a count for lunch by July 13. pterip7@gmail.com

Directions: More in the July Newsletter

Bowman’s Hill is located at 1635 River Road, New Hope, about 2.5 miles south of New Hope on Rt. 32.

Schiebers’ address is 1621 Chinquapin Rd., Holland, PA
Morris Arboretum Plant Sale

Please join us to help make the 2017 Morris Arboretum Plant Sale at Bloomfield Farm (across from the main Morris entrance) another successful year of connecting people with plants. Volunteers will receive a 20% coupon good for one-time use on May 12th or 13th. Contact Leslie Morris Smith leslm5791@gmail.com or 215-805-2591 if you signed up at the March meeting and she will confirm with you.

There are jobs available for non experts and for people who want to help customers with their purchases. May 9th through Sunday, May 13th. (Plant sale runs Thursday-Saturday) We need to fill the seven slots below. Notice you will be helping with Perennials where ferns are sold.

Date: 05/11/2017 (Thu 12:30PM - 3:30PM EDT)  
LOCATION: Perennials  
Signed Up For:  
Sales Assistant (1)

Date: 05/11/2017 (Thu 4:30PM - 7:30PM EDT)  
LOCATION: Perennials  
Signed Up For:  
Sales Assistant (1)

Date: 05/12/2017 (Fri 10:00AM - 1:00PM EDT)  
LOCATION: Perennials  
Signed Up For:  
Sales Assistant (1)

Date: 05/12/2017 (Fri 1:00PM - 4:00PM EDT)  
LOCATION: Perennials  
Signed Up For:  
Sales Assistant (1)

Date: 05/12/2017 (Fri 4:00PM - 7:00PM EDT)  
LOCATION: Perennials  
Signed Up For:  
Sales Assistant (1)

Date: 05/13/2017 (Sat 10:00AM - 12:30PM EDT)  
LOCATION: Perennials  
Signed Up For:  
Sales Assistant (1)

Date: 05/13/2017 (Sat 12:30PM - 3:00PM EDT)  
LOCATION: Perennials  
Signed Up For:  
Sales Assistant (1)

Contact Leslie Morris Smith if you signed up at the meeting. Also, we need more volunteers.
Our member, Jason Ksepka, is the new Curator at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, and a cofounder of MANTIZ (Mid-Atlantic Native & Threatened Insect Zoo). He is organizing 4 separate blitzes, 3 phytoblitzes for BHWP, and 1 full bioblitz at Green Lane Park, Montgomery County, Pa.

**Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Phytoblitz**

Identify, Tally & Enjoy as many plant species as possible throughout a 12 hour period. Come for a 4 hour shift or stay 8am to 8pm.

All levels of expertise welcome, from no special knowledge to expert.

Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope, PA (bhwp.org) is hosting a phytoblitz to update the information we use for management, conservation, and educational purposes. This 12 hour phytoblitz will focus on plant species found at the Preserve. Anyone interested in helping to identify any species including trees, shrubs, herbs, ferns, mosses, and lichens, etc. is welcome. Administrative tasks are also available for those who prefer no physical activity. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have any equipment that you prefer to use, please feel free to bring it.

Please pass this information on to anyone else that you think might be interested.

Registration at [http://conta.cc/2n3uUuu](http://conta.cc/2n3uUuu)

**Sunday June 25th 2017** 8:00am to 8:00pm  
**Sunday August 27th 2017** 8:00am to 8:00pm  
**Sunday May 6th 2018** 8:00am to 8:00pm

Contact Jason Ksepka for Phytoblitz info: ksepka@bhwp.org  
Contact Regina Moriarty for Registration questions: moriarty@bhwp.org

**MANTIZ Bioblitz**  
(Mid-Atlantic Native & Threatened Insect Zoo)

MANTIZ is a new non-profit organization promoting awareness of the beauty and value of insects, with a focus on the species that live in the Greater Philadelphia region. MANTIZ interacts with the community through education, outreach, advocacy, and restoration.

Green Lane Park in Montgomery County, PA has 3,300 acres of property containing a wide variety of habitats. This bioblitz, organized by MANTIZ will be the first thorough evaluation of the park, and will provide baseline data of current species. This will be very helpful for the management of the park, and contribute to the overall enjoyment of this wonderful natural resource. All who are interested in the outdoors and want to contribute by identifying plants, mosses, animals, insects, birds, mammals, or anything else during this 24 hour bioblitz, are welcome. This event is fun, educational, and child friendly.

**Friday June 23rd 2017 at 11:00am to Saturday June 24th 11:00am**

We request pre-registration for this event at [https://greenlaneparkbioblitz.eventbrite.com](https://greenlaneparkbioblitz.eventbrite.com)

Please do not contact Green Lane Park or Montgomery County Parks for information about the bioblitz. The Green Lane Park can be contacted for information about camping.  
[http://www.montcopa.org/871/Green-Lane-Park](http://www.montcopa.org/871/Green-Lane-Park)

Please pass this information on to anyone else that you think might be interested.
Member News

We would like to welcome a new member who joined since our last Newsletter. Her name and address have 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 due at the November meeting.

Sandra McNicol 2017
578 Oak Grove Road
Frenchtown, NJ 08825
908-996-6612
smcnicol@embarqmail.com

Otto and Kit Heck have moved
Independence Manor Room 111
188 State Highway 31
Flemington, NJ 08822

New E-mail addresses —

Jack and RoseMarie Schieber: pterip7@gmail.com
RoseLynn and David Malarek: roselynn831@gmail.com
Janice Neven: janaven@msn.com

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
delvalfernsoc@gmail.com
or to Janet Whitefield, editor
jntwhite@verizon.net

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

Webmaster: Leslie Morris-Smith
leslm5791@gmail.com