While the Society has had a stable existence, I would like to have a discussion of where it is heading in the future. I feel that we have drifted away from the intent of the founders of the Society. I would like to have a discussion at lunch after the Bowman's Hill trip on July 15th.

Last month's letter received only one response! Letter writing is a chore, but a simple email? Maybe I need a Twitter account.

The Society has remained stable with about 100 members for as long as I can remember. Many new members, if not most, joined at the Flower Show for a year or were brought by a member. Many older members have died or become inactive. This is a perennial problem of all the clubs I’ve been in. We are unfortunately about to lose an important part of the Society — our Flower Show participation. How many clubs can give you back your dues for a couple of hours sitting at the Flower Show?

In 2003 I starting working with Jack Schieber on converting the newsletter to a publication and it has been beautifully redesigned by Janet Whitefield. With primitive knowledge of web sites, I set up a web site (dvfws.org). Leslie Morris Smith has redesigned and upgraded it to a site we can be proud of. We send the newsletter to several local organizations. We have recently begun a program of outreach by setting up information at local plant sales.

With the input from Alice-Blake Simonson we put together a computerized database to manage the membership, mailing lists and email list. As to who comes from what source, we do not have an accurate count of that.

However, the Society has had its problems. We had no vice president for 5 years. Several years before that the vice presidents who were supposed to be president elect didn't assume the presidency. We have been operating lately ad hoc with little regard for the bylaws. I will be working with the officers on updating the bylaws to reflect the reality of our situation.

We have had good field trips -- wildflower and nature. But recently the interest in ferns seems to me to be in the background.

On a happier note — after a very dry fall, I thought many plants had withered and died. But after a very late recovery from winter, my garden is doing extremely well. Hopefully it will be showable in the fall. If you haven't done so, visit the fern collection at Barnes. Admission is by donation. Check their web site http://www.barnesfoundation.org/visit/merion for open days. The fern collection address is http://www.barnesfoundation.org/collections/plant-collections/laura-barnes-fern-dell. See links to the other plant collections including the new Delaware Valley Hosta Society's Hosta collection. The American Hosta Society has designated it as a National Display Garden.

John Scott
Upcoming Field Trips 2017

July 15, 10am: 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 and ferns. We will meet at Bowman's at 10am for an informal tour. There is an entrance fee of $6 adults, $4 seniors and students. If you are a member of Bowman's Hill it is free. Following our walk we will then head to the Schiebers'. Jack and Rose Marie have invited us to enjoy their gardens followed by a delicious lunch which they will provide at their home.

Contact Jack for a lunch count IMMEDIATELY: 215-357-3720  pterip7@gmail.com

There will be an informal summer meeting following lunch. We are hoping for a good turnout even if you just choose to do either half of the day.

Directions:

Bowman's Hill is located at 1635 River Road, Route 32, New Hope, about 2.5 miles south of New Hope, and 4 miles north of Washington Crossing.

- From Route 532 in Washington Crossing on the PA side drive north on Taylorsville Rd.
- Continue north as it joins River Rd, Route 32.
- The entrance to the Park will be on the left opposite the Thompson Neely House.
- Drive in to the Visitor Center for parking.

Schiebers’ address is 1621 Chinquapin Rd., Holland, PA Directions from Bowman’s Hill.

- Turn right when exiting Bowman’s Hill (River Rd - route 32).
- In 2.3 miles turn right onto Taylorsville Rd (route 532)
- In 2.2 miles you will come to a traffic light. Turn right and you will still be on route 532 south.
- Stay straight ahead on this road for 10.4 miles to a light at a dead end.
- Turn left and immediately turn right onto Chinquapin Rd.
- In 0.4 miles at the 4th curve turn left into our drive. The mailbox has 1621.

Route 532 takes a bypass around Newtown based on the signs. However, ignore this and stay straight ahead and route 532 signage will come back to your straight ahead road.

Sept 22, 23, 24: Northern PA, Warren, or Wellsboro, PA

Karen Mohn is organizing this multiday trip, possibly stopping on the way to see PA’s elk herd and the Visitor Center in Benezette. http://www.experienceelkcountry.com/elk-country-visitor-center. She and Brian scouted the area around Warren last fall and found several nice trails featuring ferns in the Allegheny National Forest. If there is interest in not going as far, she is willing to change this 2 night foray to the Wellsboro area, the Grand Canyon of PA.

Contact Karen with your interest in attending NOW: 610-562-1790   papatrees@aol.com
**MORRIS ARBORETUM PLANT SALE  May 11-13, 2017**

Director Paul Meyer thanks all the staff and volunteers for a successful 2017 Plant Sale. Despite gray skies and a threat of rain, the volunteers remained dry under cover of the garage bays. The horticulture staff and event coordinator voiced their appreciation for the enthusiasm and plant expertise of all the volunteers.

Members of DVFWS who helped Jess Slade in Perennials and Shelley Dillard in Annuals included Karen Mohn, Kathy Klein, Janet Whitefield, Leslie Smith, Michael Brooks, Jacqui Mascucchini, and Jackie Mascucchini. Among our members helping Janet Novak at the Rock Garden Society tables included Diane Smith, Hope Punnett, Donna Wilhelm, and many others.

Submitted by Leslie Morris Smith

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**NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE  at Millersville June 9-10. 2017**

The Native Plants in the Landscape Conference was a great refresher as to why we love what we love. Plants and their native aspects have so many applications to make our gardens function and grow to their fullest.

The Educational program on where they have come with the native Chestnut Tree research was encouraging. New techniques are being used to better our forest diversity.

I enjoyed the presentation by John Magee on Water in the Landscape. He has been installing water features with native backgrounds around the Baltimore area with great success. His thought for us was to consider where you would want the sound of the water to be heard.

During the lunch hour I got to discuss with interested attendees about DVFWS’s purpose and what we are all about. We were noted on the conference’s signs and handouts as supporters for the programs.

The last presentation of the afternoon was Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. They are installing a Garden Park in Canada for the Muslim community who are gifting the park to the peoples of Canada. The design is with native plants of the area incorporated into a meditation garden. The plans for it were interesting.

Many wonderful selections of plants were available to purchase. I couldn't resist, so I penned some into a design I was working on for a client of mine. Many landscape contractors are using native plants in their designs. It was encouraging to see an appreciation of our native plants at this level.

Submitted by Karen Mohn
Native wild flowers abounded. Three members of DVFWS, Jack Schieber, Terry & Bernie Cabana and a potential new member, Andy Crossland hiked in the woods despite the weather. Larry Klotz took a rain-check for later in the week with members of the Biglerville Garden Club visiting Hemlock Haven.

In excess of fifty native flowers were in bloom. Among the favorites were a great variety of trillium (Trillium erectum, Trillium grandiflora, Trillium simile (hybrid) and yellow trillium. Anemone of all species abounded along with bleeding hearts, gaywings (Polygala pauciflora), shooting star, Iris prismatica and Iris cristata “alba”, wild geranium, showy orchids, wild columbine, foamflower (Tiarella cordiflora), crested dwarf iris, and many species of native phlox and Silene carolinia. Among the favorites, was a carpet of polygala found at two locations in the woods and the Orchis spectabilis. A close second were the many carpets of dwarf ginseng, Canada mayflower and the many species of violets. All in all it was a rewarding trip for all attendees without ever leaving Hemlock Haven.

Submitted by Bernie Cabana

Gaywings
(Polygala pauciflora)

Rain and showers were predicted but by 10 am they were over, and it was a nice day.

The grounds are six acres in size, quite a bit of it in woods. We walked a section of the woods which was relatively open with high trees. It was full of two or three species of flowers in addition to others, some of which the Cabanas had planted.

At the beginning of the walk, Bernie had provided me with a nine page listing of taxonomic and common names of plant life on their property including trees and eleven species of ferns. Although it was early in the season for ferns, six species were far enough along to be identified. The listing was helpful even though I have reached the stage of forgetfulness where I no longer try to learn — just simply enjoy.

Even though the Cabana home is way out there, (near Gettysburg) it is well worth the drive!

Submitted by Jack Schieber
A small, intrepid group arrived at Leaser Lake near New Tripoli, PA in the pouring rain on May 13th, to be led by docent Nancy Wisser to some of her favorite spots. We walked through puddles and rivers of water, and we all got soaked. Nevertheless, Link Davis got some beautiful shots of orchids and bluets. We also saw Royal Fern and Interrupted Fern both of which loved the wet environment. Nancy sent along this picture of American Marsh Pennywort, *Hydrocotyle americana* which thrives in wet seeps, but the seeps were now rivers! The good outcome was that Link got full credit from LLBean on his jacket, for an exchange to one that is truly waterproof! Submitted by Karen Mohn

Showy Orchis, *Galearis spectabilis*

Bluets, *Houstonia caerulea*

Photos by Link Davis

Downy Rattlesnake Plantain, *Goodyera pubescens*
Seven members and one guest visited Shenks Ferry mid-week for an enjoyable walk at this wildflower preserve tucked away in Lancaster County, near Conestoga, PA. Tom and I were introduced to Shenks Ferry by DVFWS many years ago, and have gone back almost every year to see the beauty of the spring wildflowers, either with our organization or on our own with friends. I don’t believe we have ever seen such a variety of ferns and flowers in bloom at one time, as we did this year. A special find was a white trout lily, *Erythronium albidum*. Karen Mohn, our field trip coordinator, was wise to schedule this trip on a Thursday, because on spring weekends the parking is sparse, and the trail crowded, as more and more people discover this gem. We all had a good time and enjoyed the camaraderie at lunch afterwards.

Submitted by Janet Whitefield

Karen Wolfe organized a hike for children at Green Lane Park. It was a fun day for all who attended—Whitefields, Wolfes, Jack Schieber, Karen Mohn with 9 year old nephew Luke, and the Wolfe's 6 year old granddaughter, Ella. Karen read a story about Gnomes, the imaginary little people who live in the woods, stopping at different "stations" to continue the story and look for various things in nature mentioned in the story. Cards with pictures were provided for the scavenger hunt. At the terminus of the hike, we all had fun making little gnome houses. On the walk back to the picnic area, Luke had some great finds — a millipede which Karen promptly used as a bracelet around her arm, and a big snail hiding under some loose bark on a tree. The wildlife were returned to their homes! Lunch followed. It was a beautiful day at the lake and the Wolfe's greyhound enjoyed the walk as well.

Submitted by Janet Whitefield
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
asbji28@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

Member News
We would like to welcome a new member who joined as a result of our presence at the Millersville Conference. 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 payable at the November meeting.

Dawn Stelts 2019
dawn@stelts.com
3744 Church View Road
Emmaus, PA 18049-4813
317-418-6583 cell
https://www.linkedin.com/in/dawnstelts

Some have changed e-mail addresses as a result of Verizon.net going out of the internet business.

Ellen Wilen: owelnj1264@gmail.com
Jackie Mascucchini: Jackie.mascucchini@gmail.com

I am sending this newsletter by US mail to all those with verizon.net addresses. If you have changed, please let me know. I am keeping my address as jntwhite@verizon.net to be administered by aol.

Janet Whitefield

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Janet Whitefield

From 9 to 90, the day was enjoyed by all!
Our banner as it appeared at the Native Plant Conference at Millersville