



# Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

APRIL 2018

## President's Message

Welcome to spring - but that is what the calendar says. Here at Rockland Botanical Garden, our home and property, nothing much is out of the ground except the plant labels. I have a nice pot of chives and the rhubarb has colorful leaves.

Speaking of our RBG, the summer meeting will be here on the third Saturday of July. That is July 21st. We will have a full day of options; a nine acre native woods with about a mile of trails, an organized flowering plant collection, a conifer collection, and of course a fern collection around the house. We will also have a plant exchange, so pot up some things to bring along.

Rick Reynolds is in charge of staffing the Plant Sales so contact him to volunteer. The first sales are at Morris, Barnes (no date yet), the Millersville Conference, and the Hardy Plant Society in the fall. If you haven't been to Millersville, it is a great event.

I'll be returning to Barnes early in May. If you would like to help with spring planting, we will be moving a lot of plants as soon as they are identifiable. My usual schedule is on Thursdays when the volunteers are there, but other days are possible. I don't know what will change with their association with Saint Joseph University, but send me your schedules.

At the last meeting there was a hint that we may have a Flower Show Coordinator, but I haven't heard a definite yet.

Also we still need someone as Membership Chair to send a greeting to new members and sit at the welcoming table at meetings. We could also use someone to work with Rick Reynolds to handle the publicity part of outreach.

Read on for Michael Brooks' field trip schedule.

As to the Summer Meeting. There are several things to think about. One is cleaning up the constitution, two is ideas about a speaker for the fall meeting, and three is finances.

Hope you have a wonderful spring.

John Scott

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Field Trips	2-4
Volunteer opportunities	5
Minutes 3/17/18	6
New Members	7

## Field Trips 2018

Field trips this year are being coordinated by our vice president, Michael Brooks. If you have suggestions or would like to lead a field trip, please contact Michael at 610-293-0693 (cell) or [Mbrooks@wcupa.edu](mailto:Mbrooks@wcupa.edu)

**Events begin at 10 am** at the site unless otherwise noted.

April 19: **Shenks Ferry**, Conestoga, Lancaster County. Leader: Michael Brooks.

May 5: **Leaser Lake**, New Tripoli, Lehigh County. Leader: Karen Mohn.

June 2: **Monocacy Hill**, Douglassville, Berks County. Leader: Susan Munch.

June 30: **Stoneleigh**, a Natural Garden, Villanova, Montgomery County.  
There is a tour charge of \$15 per person and a limit of twenty participants.  
Please sign up with [mbrooks@wcupa.edu](mailto:mbrooks@wcupa.edu) ASAP

July 21: **Rockland Botanical Garden**, Mertztown, Berks County.  
Leader: John Scott This is also our Summer Meeting.

August 18: **Perkiomen Trail**, Schwenksville, Montgomery County.  
Leader: Link Davis will repeat his winter weeds walk with all the plants in their summer glory. This event is co-sponsored with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy.

Mid--September event: being planned.

See details of Field Trips through June on page 3. July Newsletter will describe the remaining trips.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19. SHENKS FERRY.** Shenks Ferry is a premier spot for spring wildflowers near Conestoga, southern Lancaster County. The Trout Lily picture on the first page was taken at Shenks. You might expect to see hundreds of Trillium. We have chosen a Thursday, because on weekends in April, it is extremely crowded. If you have never been, it is a must see. Many of us enjoy going every year! The trail is easy walking above a beautiful creek. The road in is rough and the parking is minimal. We will meet at the Conestoga Wagon Restaurant in Conestoga at 10 am. Some may want to arrive early for coffee and pie. We will then car pool to the site. Those who want to carpool with Michael from his home in Wayne, should contact Michael Brooks at 610-293-0693 or [mbrooks@wcupa.edu](mailto:mbrooks@wcupa.edu) and be there at 8:30. Bring a lunch or eat at Conestoga Wagon after the walk. If using a GPS, put in the town of Conestoga, NOT Shenks Ferry.

**Directions:**

- 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)
- Stay on 741 when it turns to the right west of Strasburg, PA.
- Drive past Willow Street, PA (Routes 272 and 222)
- When 741 turns to the right at Marticville Rd., drive straight ahead, staying on Long Lane.
- Turn left at the first light onto New Danville Pike



**Drive to the town of Conestoga and meet the DVFWS group at Conestoga Wagon Restaurant.**

**SATURDAY MAY 5. LEASER LAKE.** Leaser Lake is a man-made lake, great for fishing and kayaking. It offers beautiful views of "Blue Mountain" and familiar wildflowers of spring. Some plants to see are Showy Orchid, Miterwort, Fringed Polygala and Royal Fern. Last year the trip to Leaser Lake was very rainy, but the three who went anyway felt it worth repeating. See July 17, 2017, Newsletter on our web site, page 5, for the report and pictures. There are rest rooms and picnic tables, so bring a lunch.

**Directions: to the north shore boat launch parking where we will meet at 10 am.**

Contact Karen Mohn 610-207-6851 [papatrees@aol.com](mailto:papatrees@aol.com)

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 a left onto Ontelaunee Trail and follow this road around to the north shore.
- The boat launch parking will be on the left.

*Field trips continued from page 3*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2, MONOCACY HILL.** Monocacy Hill Recreation Area is preserved by Monocacy Hill Conservation Association. It is wooded with many trails. Our docent will be Susan Munch, retired botany professor from Albright College. She is an expert in many areas, but today's hike will concentrate on ferns. Last time we were there, she showed us the elusive climbing fern. Contact person for this hike is Michael Brooks.

**Directions:**

- Route 422 starts from Route 202 just west of King of Prussia. Drive north on Route 422.
- Continue on Route 422 when it ceases to be a limited access highway.
- Just after it crosses Route 662. You will see a diner on your right and a little later a Wawa on your left. (Stop at Wawa if you want to use the facilities or buy water.)
- Keep driving until you pass a stop light at Monocacy Creek Road. Once you pass it, keep your eye out for Hill Road on the right. It's a fairly modest little road. Turn right onto Hill Road.
- Drive to the top of the hill and at the Y, turn left unto Geiger Road.
- The parking lot for the preserve is on your left.
- Note: If you are coming from the north on 422, do a U-turn at the Monocacy Creek Road traffic light. Then keep your eye out for Hill Road on the right.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 30, STONELEIGH.** Stoneleigh, A Natural Garden, is a 42 acre estate in Villanova donated by the Haas Family to Natural Lands Trust in 2016, opening to the public this May. Be one of the first to see this beautiful property. We will have a docent-led tour of the gardens and main house starting at 10 am. There are paved paths accessible for people of all abilities. Restrooms, picnic pavilions and parking available. There is a \$15 fee per person for the guided tour with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20. Please RSVP to Michael ASAP and mail him a check made out to Michael Brooks to reserve your spot. (135 Walnut Ave., Wayne, PA 19087.)

**Directions:** 1829 E. County Line Road, Villanova, PA

- Get to the intersection of Route 30 and Route 320. Turn north on 320, (N. Spring Mill Road.) If you come from Route 476 it will be a left turn. If you come from Philadelphia turn right, but turn north.
- Pass Villanova University buildings on both sides. Cross a bridge over the train tracks and pass the train station on your right.
- Turn left on the next street -- County Line Road.
- After a very short distance turn into the Stoneleigh parking lot.
- It is possible to walk the short distance from the Villanova train station to Stoneleigh but there are no side-walks. I would rather those coming by train send me, Michael, an e-mail ([mbrooks@wcupa.edu](mailto:mbrooks@wcupa.edu)) or a text message (610-293-0693) and I will pick you up at the station.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Morris Arboretum Plant Sale May 10 - May 12

Please join us to help make the 2018 Morris Arboretum Plant Sale at Bloomfield Farm another successful year of connecting people with plants. DVFWS members with plant knowledge are especially urged to sign up for Perennials, but help in any area is welcome.

Volunteers will receive a 20% coupon good for one-time use on May 11th or 12th.

The actual plant sale runs Thursday – Saturday, with set up opportunities Tuesday and Wednesday. Please click on the link below to sign up and see dates, times, and available slots. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b4ca9af2aa13-2015>

Morris is good to us, providing a meeting room, setting up, making coffee, and giving free admission to the gardens following our meetings in March and November. Let's help them by volunteering for their big event.

Questions? Contact Michelle Connors at [mconnors@upenn.edu](mailto:mconnors@upenn.edu) or Leslie Morris-Smith at [leslm5791@gmail.com](mailto:leslm5791@gmail.com) or 215-805-2591.

## Barnes' Arboretum, Media Thursdays in May

You have the opportunity to work with John Scott and Barnes' volunteers to plant ferns and move a lot of other plants at the arboretum. If you can't make a Thursday, other days may be possible.

Contact John Scott

610-682-2809 or [johnscott302@gmail.com](mailto:johnscott302@gmail.com)



## Native Plants in the Landscape June 6 - 9, Millersville University

Inspirational field trips, educational workshops, engaging topics of concern, native plant and book sale, and native plant merchandise – this is a conference you don't want to miss.

More information is posted on [www.MillersvilleNativePlants.org](http://www.MillersvilleNativePlants.org). Questions about the conference? Please email Wendy (Conference Coordinator) at [brister@bhwp.org](mailto:brister@bhwp.org) or Sandy (Registration) at [nativeplantconference@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantconference@gmail.com).

DVFWS needs some volunteers to take our banner and promotional information to the plant sale. This does not involve attending the conference. Contact Karen Mohn at [papatrees@aol.com](mailto:papatrees@aol.com) who has done this for the past two years and/or Rick Reynolds to coordinate times for hosts at our booth.

[RickReynolds5@verizon.net](mailto:RickReynolds5@verizon.net)

## Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Calling all interested botanists and knowledgeable plant folks:

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is working on an inventory of their collection of plants. They need volunteers who can reliably identify plants to come to Bowman's at their convenience to help. Please contact Jason Ksepka indicating your availability and your plant specialty. He will coordinate with your schedule and when particular plant groups are at their peak. BHWP will provide materials, such as lists of known species and the area where they were last documented.

BHWP is also working on budgeting for a possible stipend to compensate any professionals who can assist with this project.

Please feel free to contact Jason for more information.

Jason Ksepka, Curator

215.862.2924 x107

[Ksepka@bhwp.org](mailto:Ksepka@bhwp.org) | [www.bhwp.org](http://www.bhwp.org)

# Minutes March 17, 2018 Meeting

## Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society Spring Meeting, March 17, 2018 Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA

**Business meeting:** President John Scott opened the meeting at 10:15 am

Janet Whitefield introduced our new members, Tom Maczko, Robin Hoy, and Kendra Schieber. Robin and Kendra are daughters of Jack and Rose Marie Schieber.

25 members were in attendance.

### **Treasurer's report :** Alice Blake Simonson

Checking account:

Opening balance \$1302.82 November 18, 2017

Deposit of dues 601.00

Disbursements 176.86 (2 meetings at Morris, Newsletter, and Schieber Memorial)

Closing Balance \$1726.96 March 17, 2018

Alice Blake Simonson, treasurer.

**Minutes of November 18, 2017 Meeting** were approved as published in the February Newsletter.

**Flower Show:** Tom Tomer, Chair of our former Flower Show Committee, said two members have expressed interest in leading a resurrected committee for the Flower Show 2019. Tom and others from the prior committee have volunteered to be sources of information for a new committee. Our muralist, John Albright, may also be available.

**Outreach opportunities:** Rick Reynolds chair: Morris Arboretum Plant Sale committee welcomes DVFWS members to help at its annual plant sale, May 10 - 12, where ferns will be for sale and our banner and information about the DVFWS can be displayed. Contact Leslie Morris-Smith for more information. *(Editor's note: banner cannot be displayed.)*

John Scott encouraged our members to attend other spring plant sales in our area with our Society's banner and information for outreach. Karen Mohn volunteered to be at the Millersville Native Plant Conference on Thursday, June 7, 2018.

Another volunteer opportunity may arise, working

with John Scott on the fern collection at the Barnes Arboretum.

**Field Trips:** Michael Brooks announced the 2018 spring and summer trip schedule. Hold these dates on your calendar. More information will come in the Spring Newsletter.

April 19 - Wildflowers at Shenk's Ferry

June 2 - Fern walk with Susan Munch at Monocacy Hill Preserve

June 16 - Tour of Stoneleigh, a Villanova estate newly opened to the public. *(Editor's note: this was reported correctly, but since our meeting, the date was changed to June 30<sup>th</sup>)*

July 21 - Rockland Botanical Garden, the home of John and Margaret Scott, to see John's large collection of conifers and ferns. This will be the date of our summer meeting to follow the tour at the Scotts'.

August 18 - Revisit the plants featured in Link Davis' winter wildflower walk along the Perkiomen.

September - Five Mile Wood with Janet Novak

Suggestions for other field trips included Mt Cuba in the fall and Leaser Lake in Lehigh County.

**Program:** Following a short break for refreshments, John Scott presented the program - The 2007 Joint Trip to Texas and Southern Arkansas of the British Pteridological Society and DVFWS. John showed his remarkably fine photographs and told interesting stories about eleven days of extensive travels to many Texas State Parks, botanical gardens and private gardens to see ferns in a wide variety of natural and garden settings.

**Guided Tour:** Following the program, Jess Slade, Morris Arboretum's Natural Lands Horticulturist who manages the woodland and restored wetland, guided us through these areas and the Fernery with 10 who stayed to see and learn about the history and management of these special areas of the Arboretum. Due to the cold March, there were no wildflowers showing their colors. We identified mostly wetland trees and shrubs and in the woodlands saw evergreen Wood Fern and Christmas Fern. The Fernery was magnificently beautiful and warm!

Submitted by Donna Wilhelm, Secretary

# New Members



Schieber, Kendra  
kenschieb@yahoo.com  
4 Overlook Drive  
Corinth, NY 12822  
518-654-2633

Hoy, Robin  
ecorobinhood@comcast.net  
1048 Worthington Mill Road  
Newtown, PA 18940  
215-860-7081  
215-431-7720 mobile

Kendra and Robin are daughters of Jack and Rose Marie Schieber.

Maczko Jr., Thomas  
TRMACZKO@verizon.net  
210 Colmar Drive  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
610-354-0695

Thomas heard about DVFWS through the Flower Show and the web-site

**2018 Membership Directory** has been updated, and is being sent with this Newsletter. The directory is for the convenience of members and the information is not to be shared beyond the membership. The date following your name is the year through which your dues are paid. Please check your entry and if you have any corrections, please notify:

Janet Whitefield, [jntwhite@verizon.net](mailto:jntwhite@verizon.net)

Thank you.

## 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](mailto:johndscott302@gmail.com)

**Vice President: Michael Brooks**  
[Mbrooks@wcupa.edu](mailto:Mbrooks@wcupa.edu)

**Secretary: Donna Wilhelm**  
[donnacwilhelm@gmail.com](mailto:donnacwilhelm@gmail.com)

**Treasurer: Alice-Blake Simonson**  
[asbjj28@yahoo.com](mailto: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*

[delvalfernso@gmail.com](mailto:delvalfernso@gmail.com)

or to **Janet Whitefield, editor**  
[jntwhite@verizon.net](mailto:jntwhite@verizon.net)

**Web site: [www.dvfws.org](http://www.dvfws.org)**  
*will post the current newsletter in color.*

**Webmaster: Leslie Morris-Smith**  
[leslm5791@gmail.com](mailto:leslm5791@gmail.com)

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