

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

SEPTEMBER 2020

Zoom Meeting September 19



Pyrola americana
Round-leaved Pyrola
Photo by Link Davis
at Meng Preserve
6/22/20

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Peter Couchman, the new Executive Director of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, will speak to DVFWS members on Zoom, at **12 noon on Saturday, September 19, 2020.**

The meeting will be in two parts. First, Peter will speak to us about his educational background, his experience in horticulture and share his future plans for the Preserve. A question and answer period will follow his talk. Bowman's Hill has been a favorite place for our field trips many, many times over the years.



The second part of the meeting will be a chance to share your photos and observations of summer wildflower field trips. Email your photos to Leslie Morris Smith leslm5791@gmail.com who will be host of the Zoom meeting. If possible, consolidate your photos in a single PDF or PowerPoint File, but individual photos are also welcome. The deadline for submission of photos is this Friday morning before the meeting.

Our virtual meeting will use Zoom. On the day before the meeting all members will receive an email with instructions for logging into the meeting. Nonmembers are invited to log in as well, but should email Leslie before Friday to register for the meeting, leslm5791@gmail.com.

The link to the Zoom meeting will be active at 11:30 am on September 19. Please link in early, especially if you have any questions. Leslie would like to promptly introduce the speaker at noon.

Flower Show Update

August 14 From Pennsylvania Horticulture Society:

We hope your summer is going well so far and everyone is staying safe and healthy. We wanted to send an update about the 2021 Flower Show. The big news that we can share with you now is that we are moving the Flower Show to a new location in early summer of 2021. Planning for the Flower Show is normally a year long effort but given the truly monumental challenges of 2020, staff and board members made an early decision that will change the look and the locale for the 2021 presentation to offer a safe, breathtaking experience for all.

PHS is in discussions with individuals including partners, volunteers, exhibitors, contractors, vendors, and new partners to determine where and when the Show will take place with an eye on the outdoors and early summer. Philadelphia is our home and offers a number of locations where the Show will benefit from “borrowed scenery”, space for safe distancing and access to mass transit, parking and major highways.

We will keep you up to date throughout our planning and will send you specific details as they become available. Over the next month, we will be contacting many of you individually to discuss planning and to solicit your expertise and creativity as we look to develop many elements of the Show.

With your support and involvement, we are assured that the Flower Show will continue to provide the inspiration and encouragement to people at all skill levels to enjoy the benefits of gardening and become more engaged with PHS. We are very excited at the possibilities for the 2021 Show and promise a welcoming, safe and truly extraordinary experience.

We thank you for your patience, your passion and support during these times and appreciate all that you do for PHS and the Flower Show.

Sam Lemheney, CFEE
VP and Chief of Shows and Events
PHS Philadelphia Flower Show
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)

Melissa Raffel
Director of Volunteer Programs
PHS Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
(PHS)

August 30 From Pennsylvania Horticulture Society:

We hope you are doing well, as we come to the end of the summer. As a follow-up to our email earlier this month, we wanted to bring you up to date on some of our plans for the 2021 Philadelphia Flower Show.

PHS has requested the use of FDR Park in South Philadelphia as its preferred site for the 2021 Show from the City of Philadelphia. Show management noted transit and highway access, parking, and borrowed scenery as key to its preference for this site. Preliminary engagement with surrounding community stakeholders indicates strong support for the Show in this location with many new opportunities for PHS to improve the health of the existing landscape of the historic park as a result.

“FDR Park is a city treasure that is enjoyed by a diverse community of Philadelphians as a place to enjoy
(Continued on page 3)

being outside with friends and family. With the impending Flower Show, PHS will work with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation to identify and invest in improvements to the existing tree canopy and other areas to enhance the park,” says Don Fox, PHS Chief Operating Officer.

The Philadelphia Flower Show, begun in 1829, is the largest and longest running horticultural event of its kind in the world delivering an annual economic impact to the Greater Philadelphia region of more than \$60M with significant additional investment by PHS year-round in the City’s neighborhoods, street trees, and public green spaces. The pursuit of the FDR Park site for the Flower Show follows PHS’s July announcement of its decision to host the 2021 Flower Show outdoors in early summer. These changes were brought about as the organization seeks to safely position the event post-COVID.

Determination on site approval from the City is expected sometime in early Fall.

As always, we thank you for your patience, your passion and support during these times and appreciate all that you do for PHS and the Flower Show.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions.



Sam Lemheney, CFEE
VP and Chief of Shows and Events
PHS Philadelphia Flower Show
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)



Melissa Raffel
Director of Volunteer Programs
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Editor’s note: At the time of this publication, our Flower Show Coordinator has not received any information about our participation in the 2021 Flower Show. We will keep you posted in the October newsletter.

Meadowbrook Farm Seeking Volunteers

We wanted to let you know if you live in the area of Meadowbrook Farm, volunteer gardening and greeter positions are now available. If you are interested in volunteering, you **must** sign up beforehand on VolunteerHub <http://mbf.phs.volunteerhub.com> so we know to expect you and so you can acknowledge the PHS Covid-19 Waiver. Please let me, Rachel Cieri (rcieri@pennhort.org), know if I can help you with any questions about VolunteerHub or please contact Karen Tyler (kt Tyler@pennhort.org), with any other questions!

1975–45–2020

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

has an anniversary this year. Traditionally we have had a luncheon and speaker in October, but that does not look possible this year. I would like to make the October Newsletter a looking back at events, field trips, forays, Flower Shows, anything you found significant. Please send your story to Janet Whitefield by October 1st. jntwhite863@gmail.com.

Field Trip Report

MENG PRESERVE, Schwenksville, Montgomery Co., Monday June 22, 2020

This was a joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club (led by Janet Novak) and the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society (led by David Lauer). Meng Preserve originally operated as a Girl Scout Camp and then as an Audubon preserve. It was recently taken over by Natural Lands and is being administered by them along with Bryn Coed and Binky Lee Preserves.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic we limited the group to 10 participants (plus the 2 leaders). Attendees included: Anne Bekker, Max Blaustein, Jeffrey Branham, Joseph Colosi, Link Davis, Larry Klotz, David Lauer, Sandy McNicol, Janet Novak, Nancy Stedman, and John & Jean Witmer. Participants wore masks at all times and stayed 6 feet apart, and we had a very productive day, from 10:15 am through 3 pm. We walked a large loop through secondary and mature deciduous forest, through diabase fields and along a trail bordering wetlands, then returned to the parking lot for lunch. A number of participants then climbed a trail to a high outcropping of diabase rock.



An extensive plant list, provided by Janet Novak, is available. A good diversity of ferns were located, including Cinnamon, Royal and Interrupted, Christmas, Broad beech, Polypody, Hayscented, Marsh, New York, Ebony spleenwort, Lady, Rattlesnake and Maidenhair ferns, plus Marginal, Intermediate and Spinulose woodferns. Highlights of the other understory plants included Round-leaved pyrola (*Pyrola americana*), Shinleaf (*Pyrola elliptica*), and Showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*). The forest includes a wide variety of tree and shrub species. Meng Preserve is easy to navigate and we recommend that members visit it individually, as all Natural Lands Preserves are open to the public during the pandemic. There are no restroom facilities, so plan accordingly.

Submitted by David Lauer Photos by Link Davis at Meng



Scutellaria elliptica Hairy Skullcap



Polypodium virginianum Rock Polypody

Member News

Alice Blake Simonson has moved to Delaware with her daughter and son-in-law.

Joanne Ford has moved to Foulkeways joining several of our other members.

Nancy Trexler forwarded an article about Japanese Beetles from Mike McGoarty who writes on line:

Mike's Backyard Nursery.

<https://mikesbackyardnursery.com/2010/07/how-to-get-rid-of-japanese-beetles-and-grubs-in-your-lawn/>

Rick Reynolds wrote that he returned to his volunteer position at Longwood Gardens: I'm finally back at Longwood doing my Wednesday bloom survey in the meadow. Check out the attached picture I took on my first day back -- Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*). It was a big deal at Longwood in case you didn't know about it. [https://](https://longwood-gardens.org/sprout)

longwood-gardens.org/sprout

I did receive notice from the Hardy Plant Society that they cancelled the fall vendor sale. They did mention that the 2021 fall sale will be held at Meadowbrook Farm which will be a nice venue.

I miss seeing everyone and hope that we'll be able to get together sometime soon.



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:

delvalfernsoc@gmail.com

or e-mailed to Janet Whitefield, editor
jntwhite863@gmail.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:

Alice-Blake Simonson
24 Bridle Ridge Circle
Lewes DE 19958
215-868-0440

Web site: www.dvfws.org

Webmaster: Leslie Morris-Smith leslm5791@gmail.com