

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

JULY 2022



Summer Picnic & Botany at the Barnes Arboretum

Saturday, September 10 at 10am

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Clint Springer PhD, Director of the Institute for Environmental Stewardship, Director of the Barnes Arboretum at Saint Joseph's University, and Associate Professor of Biology will be our host for the summer meeting at the Barnes Arboretum at Saint Joseph's University, 50 Lapsley Lane, Merion, PA on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at 10am.

[The Barnes Arboretum at Saint Joseph's University | Saint Joseph's University \(sju.edu\)](https://www.sju.edu/barnes-arboretum)

Dr. Springer would like to enhance the teaching aspects of the Arboretum fern garden with our assistance. In the 1940s Mrs. Laura Leggett Barnes had developed the best fern collection in the country, with some help from our founder Dr. Edgar Wherry.

The Fern Dell as it was known was recently restored by a DVFWS past president, John Scott. Bring your lunch and something to share for our discussion with Clint. There is ample parking off the one-way street, and we'll have access to the rooms on the first floor: library, dining room, kitchen, solarium, and outdoor terrace at the former Barnes residence. A DVFWS business meeting will be conducted as well.



Photo at top by Link Davis
LEP NYMPHALIDAE *Danaus plexippus*
Monarch - Delhaas Woods, Bucks Co. PA
Photo above - Barnes Fern Dell
Photo to right - Barnes Residence
50 Lapsley Lane, Merion Station, PA
Photos by Kendra Schieber

Field Trips

PLEASE EMAIL THE TRIP LEADER TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE TO REGISTER

THURSDAY August 4th, 10:30 AM Secret Springs Turtle Rock Preserve

Upper Black Eddy, PA

Leader: David Lauer dml1000@comcast.net

This will be our first visit to this 10-acre native plant and animal preserve in rural northern Bucks County that is operated by John Barry. Here is a short video that shows the preserve:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiYbUL9aYEs&t=68s>

John describes his preserve in this way: "The property is crossed by numerous trails that visit the different micro climes. With the loss of many ash trees, we are now expanding the areas exposed to more sunlight. One notable thing is the continuing effort to rescue areas from the big three: stilt grass, multiflora rose and barberry and their replacement with native plants. Almost the entire area is deer fenced and yes there are secret springs on the property with their attendant wetland plants and animals. We are surrounded by large wooded areas and next to the Ringing Rocks Park. The township has just bought a 110-acre property of a wooded and abandoned quarry that borders our property." Address: 1755 Highview Lane, Upper Black Eddy, Pa 18972.

GPS Coordinates: 40.065208, -75.191107

SATURDAY, September 24, 10:30am

Petty's Island Preserve, Pennsauken NJ

Leader: David Lauer dml1000@comcast.net

Sound the trumpet! Beat the drum! Petty's Island in the Delaware River has been preserved by a Conservation Easement given by CITCO to the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. At 500 acres in size and in a wonderful location close to Penn's Landing and Center City Philadelphia, the restoration of this jewel verges on the miraculous. It was almost lost to a resort development. Read about the Island here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/njnlt/pettysisland.htm> While it is not yet open to public access, we will visit the island with appropriate persons from the NJNL Trust and the relevant NJ state authorized personnel. A small bridge connects the island to

NJ, so swimming or boating will not be required!

This will be a joint field trip with the Philadelphia Botanical Club (PBC) and the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society (DVFWS). Group size is limited to 20 participants and ALL need to pre-register with either Janet (PBC) janet@indri.org or David Lauer (DVFWS) DML1000@comcast.net or 215-357-2646. Each registrant will need to sign a waiver prior to arriving for the fern walk, hence the added need to pre-register.

GPS Coordinates: 39.971026, -75.089718



RANUNCULACEAE *Thalictrum pubescens* Tall meadow Rue
Upper Schuylkill River Park Trail 7/17/2022
Photo by Link Davis

FRIDAY, October 14th, 10:30 AM

The Laurels Preserve, Chester Co., PA

Leader: Marice Bezdek mbezdek@kennett.net

<https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/preserves/laurels-preserve>

Occupying over 700 acres and maintained by the Brandywine Conservancy, this preserve occupies land formerly included in the over 5000-acre King Ranch.

Carpooling is encouraged. Location: The entrance to the Laurels is 100 yards off of PA Route 82 on Apple Grove Road, four miles west of Unionville, PA.

Parking for 10 cars is located about ¼ mile from the main gate.

GPS coordinates: 39.907159, -75.799290

If you need directions, please reach out o

David Lauer: DML1000@comcast.net

DVFWS Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society Meeting – via ZOOM

March 26, 2022

President Rick Reynolds welcomed 27 attendees and then presided over a short business meeting.

The April 10, 2021 minutes were approved.

Two Treasurer's Reports were read and approved:

November 16, 2021

Checking Account: Opening Balance \$3794.40
(closing balance -last report 4/10/2021

Deposits - \$2555.00 membership renewals

Disbursements - \$2096.77 Flower Show and
Newsletter expenses

Closing Balance - **\$4252.66 11/16/2021**

Note: Check #269 – 8/29/20 - \$50.00 formerly reported as outstanding is now resolved and \$50.00 is now restored to DVFWS bank balance records.

March 25, 2022

Checking Account: Opening Balance \$4252.66

Deposits - \$923.00 membership renewals
and 1 donation

Disbursements - \$30.47 newsletter postage

Closing Balance - **\$5145.19. 3/26/2022**

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Blake Simonson, Treasurer

- ♦ **Field Trips:** David Lauer showed a list of 8 possible trip destinations - natural areas and gardens. Then he requested that attendees indicate their preferences which will be used in planning. Currently planned are two field trips to Shenks Ferry for the spring ephemerals and to the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research.

- ♦ **Flower Show:** Leslie Morris Smith reviewed the many difficulties of exhibiting last year at the 2021 Flower Show. The 2022 show will be located again in the same space, but will return to the Convention Center in spring, 2023. Therefore, it was decided to forego a DVFWS exhibit in this year's Flower Show. Our time and energy will focus on revising our brochure that is distributed at the Flower Show.
- ♦ **Summer Picnic:** It was decided to hold a summer picnic to tentatively be held at Michael Mills' home in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. Also, there will be a monthly field trip and two meetings per year.
- ♦ **Newsletter:** Kendra Schieber, newsletter editor, announced that the deadline for the next newsletter submissions is June 25, 2022.
Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Wilhelm, Secretary

Following the business meeting we were all invited to view the documentary *My Garden of a Thousand Bees*.

My Garden of a Thousand Bees follows acclaimed wildlife filmmaker Martin Dohrn, who, locked down by coronavirus, turns his lenses on the surprising and spectacular bees living in his own urban garden in Bristol, England. Watch *My Garden of a Thousand Bees* online for free at pbs.org/nature and the PBS Video app.

It is a wonderful glimpse into the lives of these pollinators in our gardens. [\(1177\) My Garden of a Thousand Bees | Official Trailer | NATURE | PBS - YouTube](#)



The Fern Dell at the Barnes Foundation - photo by Kendra Schieber

Trip Reports

TUESDAY, April 11, 2022, 10am Shenks Ferry Wildflower Preserve

Tuquan Glen, Lancaster Co., PA
Guide/Leader: David Lauer

The first walk of the Spring was at one of the treasure spots for Spring ephemerals. Shenks Ferry welcomed a small group of DVFWS members on a beautiful Spring Day. Everyone owes it to themselves to make this location a must on their bucket list. Compared to my home in northern Berks County, Shenks Ferry provides an early bloom two weeks ahead of my home area. The walk is easily navigated on a wide path with plenty of parking on week-days.

Our group consisted of coordinator David Lauer, Kendra Schieber, Sue Snyder, Link Davis and myself. We were so intrigued by the variety of plant material that our walk extended beyond four hours.

A few yards into our walk we saw flowering Early Saxifrage (*Micranthes virginensis*) clinging to a rock outcropping along with some vegetative Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). Below the rocks we saw flowering Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*). As we rounded the corner to the main path up Grubb Run our eyes were greeted to a blue sea of flowering Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*). Further up the slope we spotted a white flowered Virginia Bluebell, a very rare occurrence for our enjoyment.



BORAGINACEAE *Mertensia virginica forma alba*
Photo by Link Davis



LAMIACEAE *Lamium purpureum* (Purple Dead-Nettle)
Photo by Link Davis

Dispersed throughout the valley was flowering Cutleaf Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), Spring Beauties (*Claytonia virginica*), and Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*). Trillium grandiflorum was starting to show color along

with Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*). White Trout Lily (*Erythronium albidum*) was in bud stage much to my disappointment, as this is one of a few locations I have seen it. That said, this walk always has plenty of highlights, especially when you get to see Putty-root Orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*) leaves and seed stalks from the previous season.

Some of the other plants we saw were Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), Blue and Yellow violets, Blue and Black Cohosh, Smooth Rockcress, Sweet cicely, Miterwort and a variety of early butterflies.

To conclude, Shenks Ferry and other nearby preserves are well managed by the Lancaster Conservancy. Information is available at their website: [Lancaster Conservancy - Saving Nature - Lancaster, PA](https://www.lancasterconservancy.org/) Submitted by Brian Mohn



Photo by Kendra Schieber

Trip Reports

(continued from page 4)

TUESDAY May 10, 10am

Henry Foundation for Botanical Research

Gladwyne, PA Guide/Leader: Susan Treadway

We visited this wonderful location last summer along with members of the local Rock Garden Society and the Philadelphia Botanical Club. It was a delightful visit and members of DVFWS resolved to return this spring to see the many early blooming ephemerals, shrubs, and trees, many of which are unusual. Seven folks, including five members and two guests visited on a gorgeous day and saw a different variety of plants in bloom than were visible last summer. Most notable were the flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) and the Halesias: *H. diptera*, *H. diptera* var. *magniflora*, *H. tetraptera*, and their crosses. All were covered in blossoms. We spent the first part of the morning with Susan Treadway, visiting the rock garden and a number of sites, and then Henry Ortmeyer joined us and took us into an area that will be rehabilitated soon and in which there are a variety of *Rhododendron* species along with several old specimens and several seedlings of *Torreya taxifolia*, the "Florida Torreya," "nutmeg yew" or "stinking cedar," plus a slew of other fascinating plants. A good time was had by all. Kendra ended the afternoon by participating in a painting workshop with along with Henry. So keep your eyes on the Christie's auction house events.....(ed. LOL)

Submitted by David Lauer

[Henry Botanic Garden | A Wilderness Garden](#)

FRIDAY, May 20, 2022

Chanticleer Field Trip

Wayne, PA Guide: Przemyslaw Walczak

On Friday, May 20th we explored the woodland plants at Chanticleer, a "garden well executed" in Wayne, PA. Dick Wills, David Lauer, Mary Carr, Rick Reynolds, and Leslie Morris Smith were welcomed by [Przemyslaw Walczak](#), section leader for Bell's Woodland previously and now the Creek Garden. His lecture to the membership at a previous fall meeting inspired our visit this spring.** In Bell's Woodlands we spotted *Dodecatheon meadia*, *Adiantum pedatum* (Maidenhair fern), dayflower *Commelina erecta*, *Packera aurea*, Dixie Wood Fern (*Dryopteris x australis*), Hart's Tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), several species of carex, violas and more.

In the Creek Garden we were delighted to see very large Royal ferns *Osmunda regalis*, a narrow-

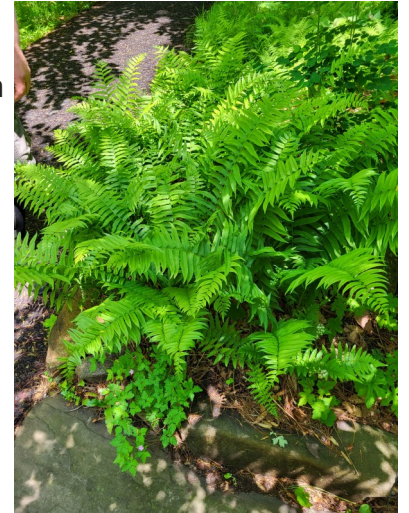
leafed glade fern *Diplazium pycnocarpon*, and a few remnants of what were long swaths of blue camassia that stretched for hundreds of feet along Bell's Run, *C. leitchlinii* 'Blauwe Donau' ('Blue Danube'). Beyond were a collection of five pond gardens with lotus and waterlilies. The Asian woods had tall shade and many grasses and flowering shrubs and we enjoyed the respite on the porch of the Japanese house.

The crop in the serpentine was garlic this year. The Chanticleer residence has a meadow lawn with flowers, circles of massive containers, both hanging and standing. Around the pool was a dry garden that is never watered, a tropical garden, and middle eastern long fountains. We had a choice of five different areas for lunch before we said our goodbyes.

** Przemyslaw presented his work restoring Bell's Woodlands, including the entrance bridge which he constructed to look like a fallen log. Note: he and another staff member make many of the artful metal and stone plant list boxes and whimsical bridges around Chanticleer during the winter months. This blog from an Austin, TX garden blogger shows more of his metal creations and detailed stone paths in the woodland garden:

<https://www.penick.net/digging/?p=80354>

Submitted by Leslie Morris Smith



Diplazium pycnocarpon
Narrow-leaved Glade Fern
Photos by Leslie Morris Smith



Przemyslaw Walczak

Trip Reports

(Continued from page 5)

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Monocacy Hill Wildflower Walk

Amity Township, Berks Co. PA Leaders: Brian & Karen Mohn

Members of the DVFWS met at Monocacy Hill in southern Berks County on a beautiful Spring Day for our scheduled wildflower walk. The hill is visible for miles rising from the landscape when traveling on Rt. 422. Thought to be an ancient volcano, the rock formation is Diabase with xenoliths visible throughout the mountain. We were attracted to the hill and intrigued by the vast variety of wildflowers and trees, just like the native Lenni Lenape and later Daniel Boone.

Finds of the day were Grape Fern (*Botrychium dissectum*), Veiny skullcap (*Scutellaria nervosa*), Wild Comfrey (*Cynoglossum virginianum*), Canadian Honewort (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*) and Stone Root (*Collinsonia canadensis*). Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*) was evident throughout the walk with their fertile fronds waving in the wind. Some of the other ferns we saw were Marginal wood, New York, Broad beech, Maidenhair, Sensitive and polypody fern.

Black cohosh and White baneberry were sending up flower stalks making identification easier. If anyone has a tip to distinguish these two Ranunculaceae in the vegetative stage I would appreciate you passing it along.

Most of the Spring ephemerals were done blooming except for a few Rue-anemone and Columbine. Leading us to look for fertilized seed pods of Showy orchids, hepatica and a few Yellow Lady Slipper orchids.

Monocacy Hill has over 150 varieties of wildflowers catalogued and a variety of soft and hardwood trees including Pawpaw. It will be interesting to see the change in plant populations as a result of the dead ash trees opening up the canopy.

I want to thank David and Sandy for joining Karen and I on this walk. Make time to enjoy a walk!

Submitted by Brian Mohn

Saturday, July 16th, 2022

Ferns in Philadelphia

Northwest Philadelphia, PA Leader/Guide - Janet Novak

18 members and friends of the Philadelphia Botanical Club and the Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society gathered at the Mt. Airy train station, our first stop on a tour of northwest Philadelphia ferns led by botanist and fern expert, Janet Novak.

In Mt. Airy, we saw a colony of smooth cliff-brake (*Pellaea glabella*) that has been thriving on the station's stone bridges since at least the 1930s, when it was noted by Edgar Wherry. Named for its smooth stem, it is less common than purple cliffbrake (*Pellaea atropurpurea*), which is distinguished by its hairy stem. We were able to compare these stems in Chestnut Hill,



Pellaea glabella Smooth Cliffbrake
Photos by Chrissy Steele

where some purple cliffbrake makes its home on W. Willow Grove Avenue. We learned that cliffbrakes like a limestone habitat,

hence their presence on these lime-mortared walls. (And I subsequently learned from Wikipedia that "brake" is an old word for fern, and is related to "bracken".)

Another interesting fern on our walking tour was the Tennessee bladder fern (*Cystopteris tennesseensis*), also growing on a shaded wall on Navajo St. This species has what are called bulblets on the back of its leaves. They appear as three-dimensional, rounded clusters which eventually grow larger, drop from the plant to a new location, divide and send up a shoot, thereby starting a new plant. This fern is endangered in Pennsylvania, but it is abundant in northwest Philadelphia.

We also saw and learned about blunt-lobed Woodsia (*Woodsia obtusa*), ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), and rock polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*), among others.

As a final treat on this hot and humid day, some of us accepted Janet's invitation to picnic at her home in Chestnut Hill, where she was also kind enough to give us an informative tour of her beautiful garden.

Submitted by Chrissy Steele



Janet Novak

Member News

PA Botany invites you to a Fern Workshop on August 13
Registration is open for this full-day 2022 Fern Identification and Ecology Workshop. Instructor **Chris Hoess** (DVFWS member) will give participants a sense of the diversity and ecological context of PA ferns in an indoor session at Millersville University, and lead an afternoon field trip to a nearby site with high fern diversity. [Fern Identification and Ecology Workshop | pabotany.org](https://pabotany.org)

The 2022 Perennial Plant Conference at Scott Arboretum is scheduled for Friday, October 14th with both an in-person or online attendance registration. This all-day event features a slate of very notable speakers from across the country.

Janet Novak (DVFWS member) will be presenting on -- *Matching Place to Plant: Expanding the Native Plant Palette*. The following was from the website: the Mid-Atlantic region has around 4,000 native plant species, offering a wide range of choices for gardeners seeking something different. There's a native perennial for virtually any landscape challenge, from waterlogged spots to dry, infertile soil. Have an urban site where concrete has made the soil alkaline? Look at natives from limestone glades and limestone barrens. Want native plants with a long season of bloom? Think about *Verbena canadensis* (rose vervain) or *Campanula rotundifolia* (harebell). Janet will show lesser-known native plants that can solve problems and contribute unique beauty to landscapes.

[Details - Plan Your Day at the Perennial Plant Conference](#)

DVFWS V. P. **Michael Brooks** has a new email address - mbrookssquadrangle4@gmail.com

DVFWS Treasurer, **Alice-Blake Simonson** remembers making her first deposit on behalf of the DVFWS in 1981. 41 years ago! Her dedication is truly a remarkable accomplishment.

DVFWS President, **Rick Reynolds** was contacted recently by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) requesting an interview for input regarding an article on ferns they plan to publish in *Grow* magazine in September. The contributing writer, Pamela Ruch gave DVFWS a couple of mentions in the article.

DVFWS Officers Sought

Both Michael Brooks and Donna Wilhelm have expressed an interest in stepping down from their positions as Vice President and Secretary, respectively. These positions will be open for replacement and we would welcome any members in good standing that may wish to apply. Please reach out to Rick Reynolds if you have an interest in serving on the DVFWS Board.

Links to other events

Copy and paste into your browser window

Hardy Fern Foundation (HFF): HFF President Richie Steffen workshop on Rare and Choice Hardy Ferns - <https://hardyferns.org/events/rare-and-choice-hardy-ferns/>
HFF Affiliated Gardens - <https://hardyferns.org/affiliated-gardens/>

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

mbrookssquadrangle4@gmail.com

Secretary: Open Position

Treasurer: Alice-Blake Simonson

asbjj28@yahoo.com

Field Trips: David Lauer

DML1000@comcast.net

Membership

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: Kendra Schieber at kenschieb@yahoo.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



Fern Walk - Willow Grove Avenue - Chestnut Hill - Philadelphia
Photo by Chrissy Steele