

Delaware Valley Fern and Wildflower Society

JANUARY 2020



Snowdrop
Galanthus nivalis

Photo by
Kim A. Sheridan

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2020 Flower Show

Philadelphia Flower Show *Riviera Holiday* is February 29th through March 8th.

Our exhibit for 2020 is entitled “Ferns in a Mediterranean Breeze”. But don’t be fooled. As an educational exhibit, our plants are exempt from the theme constraints. PHS would rather visitors learn about plants they can actually grow.

A variety of indoor ferns as houseplants will be on plant stands around the sliver of a Mediterranean terrace.

Native wildflowers will be mixed in with the outdoor native ferns as companion plants.

In addition, native bee houses will be placed around the garden to remind our visitors that a healthy garden welcomes insects by providing habitat and shelter for raising young. Since no live “critters” are allowed in the convention hall, the filled tubes will merely resemble larvae overwintering in our garden awaiting spring. Native bees and other insects pollinate flowers to make seeds for the coming year.

Behind the scenes:

As of mid-January, the young ferns and wildflowers are busy emerging under lights in the warmth at PHS Meadowbrook Farm. Rick Reynolds will make strategic plant additions in the weeks leading up to set-up day.

David Green at **Primex Garden Center** has agreed to supply a variety of native bee houses, partnering with us in our exhibit.

Set-up will be on Wednesday February 26, **10 am**. (This is a change from the previously announced 1 pm.) Plants will arrive on Tuesday while a few of our “construction engineers” are building a wall. Unwrapping, grooming and planting will start at 10 am Wednesday. We hope to see you there. Hoagies will be provided for lunch. Contact Leslie Morris Smith if you plan to come.

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(Flower Show continued from page 1)

Tear down is Sunday March 8th 6:30 pm immediately after the close of the show. To volunteer Leslie's contact information is 215-805-2591 or leslm5791@gmail.com



Mason Bee house



Bird's Nest Fern, one of the many unusual ferns for our display.

Fern Tenders (formerly “sitters”) are our ambassadors for DVFWS. They welcome people to our display, answer questions to the best of their ability, or offer reference material. Ambassadors can write down questions to look up later and e-mail the answer to the visitor. They also indicate our activities —field trips, meetings with programs, and hand out brochures to people who are interested in joining.

There are 9 days and 3 shifts (4 on weekends) each day with two people tending each shift. That makes 60 helpers needed! Sign up started at our November meeting and 41 slots are filled. Five people signed up for two shifts on different days, so you know this is really a lot of fun.

One of the perks of being a Fern Tender is that you get a ticket that gets you into the show **before** the public arrives at 10 am (8 am on weekends). This allows you time to see much of the show without the crowds. You may bring a friend to sit with you or be placed with another DVFWS member. If convenient, consider volunteering two or more days. Tickets will be mailed February 18th.

These are the times that need to be filled:

Sat.	2/29	8-11	2 people
Sat.	2/29	6-8	2 people
Sun.	3/1	6-9	2 people
Mon.	3/2	6-9	2 people
Thurs.	3/5	2-6	1 person
Thurs.	3/5	6-9	2 people
Fri.	3/6	2-6	1 person
Fri.	3/6	6-9	1 person
Sat.	3/7	8-11	2 people
Sat.	3/7	11-2	1 person
Sun.	3/8	8-11	2 people
Sun.	3/8	3-6	1 person

Please call or email Janet Whitefield to reserve a spot. 610-584-5158 jntwhite863@gmail.com

Spring Meeting March 21, 2020

The March meeting of the DVFWS will be held on Saturday, March 21, 10 am at Morris Arboretum Bloomfield Farm, Magnolia Room. 100 E Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia. Directions: www.morrisarboretum.org/visit_directions.shtml
The entrance is directly across the road from the main gate to Morris and will open at 9:30 am.

Program begins at 10 am with a speaker from Natural Lands, **Kirsten Werner, Senior Director of Communications.**

Our new liaison at Morris will be introduced.

Ferns from the Flower Show will be sold by silent auction. Bring cash or your checkbook.

You are welcome to walk around the arboretum after the meeting.

Hope to see you there!

*Morris Arboretum has appointed **Pamela Morris Olshefski** as their Natural Lands Manager. She is also our new Fern & Wildflower Society liaison. She worked for Delaware River Keeper until 2001, then joined the Arboretum as the Natural Lands Section Leader. In 2011 she moved into a part time position as Curatorial Assistant to have a more flexible schedule to raise her children. Now she's happy to be returning full time to the Natural Lands.*

Pam can be reached at pamela@upenn.edu.

Refreshments needed!

If you would like to contribute a finger food for the refreshments for the March meeting, please contact Mary Carr. 610-933-6352 or marycarr104@gmail.com.

Cheese, crackers, fruit, cookies, cake, donut holes, etc are always welcome! Coffee and hot water are supplied by Morris Arboretum



Our ferns being forced for the Flower Show at Meadowbrook Farm

Field Trips 2020

All trips begin at 10 am unless otherwise stated and finish between noon and 1 pm.

For gardens there may be a modest admission fee as noted.

Saturday, April 18th Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve

This is an annual trip to one of the most extensive natural displays of native wildflowers in SE Pennsylvania. We will meet at the parking area at the foot of the trail and proceed upward at our own pace.

<https://www.lancasterconservancy.org/preserves/shenks-ferry-wildflower/> ; <https://www.lancasterconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ShenksFerryHikingMap2019.pdf>

Directions: Coordinates- **39.902012, -76.366648** Go to Google Maps, enter these coordinates and obtain directions to the Preserve from your home or departure point. Alternative: use your driving app on your cell phone or GPS in your car.

Saturday, May 9th Northview Garden, Ambler PA

This is the garden of Jenny Rose Carey who spoke to us at our fall meeting regarding shade gardens. It will be lovely to see her garden creations! <http://www.jennyrosecarey.com/northview-gardens/>

Directions: **40.178081 -75.191786; 1650 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA.** Enter at the driveway for Twin Springs Farm. There is a sign at the entrance. On Google Maps this driveway as shown as Orchard Drive. Jenny's phone number is 215-896-0204. Please **pre-register** with David Lauer so that we can ensure adequate parking spaces. DML1000@comcast.net, 215-357-2646 A small donation is requested for either Northview Garden or the PA Horticultural Society.

Saturday, June 6th Henry Botanic Garden, Gladwyne, PA

This must-see garden is the home of the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research. "The Henry Botanic Garden is a historic garden created by Mary Gibson Henry (1884 – 1967), who was a noted 20th century horticulturalist, naturalist, and skilled field botanist. This garden provides a stunning untamed oasis in the heart of Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. The garden is home to an impressive number of superb collections of prominent plant families. With a strong focus on woody plants, a visitor can expect to see Magnolias, Styrax, Hamamelis, Halesia, and Rhododendrons — as well as a notable collection of herbaceous plants. The garden features broadly varied terrain portraying a host of natural environments, from high rugged stony outcroppings and spare alpine sites, to lush dappled forests, to soothing riparian glens, to broad open meadowland." (from their website <https://www.henrybotanicgarden.org/visit/>) Our guide will be Susan Treadway, President of the Henry Foundation.

Directions: **40.053397 -75.286326; 801 Stony Lane, Gladwyne PA.** Stony Lane is an extension of Henry Lane. Turn onto Henry Lane at its intersection with Conshohocken State Road. From Conshohocken: Drive east on PA Route 23 about two miles. Turn left onto Henry Lane. At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Stony Lane and then right at 801 Stony Lane and follow the driveway through the gates to the main building. A small donation will be requested, depending on the number of folks who attend. Please pre-register with David Lauer DML1000@comcast.net 215-357-2646. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch.

Minutes of November 2019 Meeting

President Rick Reynolds opened the meeting at Morris Arboretum on November 16th at 10 am by introducing our speaker, Jenny Rose Carey, Director of Meadowbrook Farm of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Her program featured photographs of Northview, her Ambler, PA garden, and many shade gardens around the world. She spoke of native trees and wildflowers which flourish in shade as well as ferns. These are featured in her new book, Glorious Shade, which was available for purchase. Included in her lively talk was information about garden design, color, water features, light and shade, and much practical advice about soil moisture, pH, compost pathways, and use of stones, grit and leaf mold for ground covers.

After a brief break for refreshments, Rick presided over a business meeting which included the following:

1. **Approval of minutes** the DVFWS meeting, July 20, 2019.

2. **Treasurer's report:**

Opening balance on March 23, 2019 \$3914.68

Deposits – dues, Flower Show stipend, fern sales-
\$1447.17

Disbursements—Flower Show 2019, newsletter expenses, honoraria, meeting room fee \$2746.70

Closing balance on November 11, 2019 \$2615.15

In the absence of our treasurer, Alice Blake Simonson, Newsletter Editor, Janet Whitefield told us that Alice Blake has been our treasurer for 38 years and she will celebrate her 90th birthday on Christmas day. Attendees were invited to sign a birthday card for her.

3. **Field trips** – Michael Brooks and David Lauer announced plans for 2020:

Northview, Jenny Rose Carey's garden in Ambler in

mid May,

Shenks Ferry wild flowers in mid April,

Henry Foundation's rock gardens and ferns in the summer,

Parvin State Park in southern New Jersey.

Ideas for other trips are welcomed.

4. **Outreach** - Rick asked for a volunteer to fill this position. Its work is coordination of DVFWS presence at area plant sales. There will be no sale at Morris Arboretum this year; spring sales will occur at the Barnes Foundation and the Ambler Arboretum of Temple University. The DVFWS banner needs repair before use in 2020. *(Editor's note: the supplier indicated we'd need a new base at a cost of \$127.20.)*

5. **2020 Flower Show** - Leslie Morris-Smith, co-chair of our Flower Show committee said the theme of the 2020 Flower Show is "Riviera Holiday." Our exhibit will evoke the coastal climate of California with indoor non-hardy ferns, and our local hardy ferns displayed in a 12'x12' space, having a terrace of blue tiles on one edge, with a diagonal walk way through the middle. We are encouraged to lend both indoor and outdoor ferns which will be returned after the show. Co-chair Rick Reynolds will coordinate digging of the hardy ferns to be dropped off at Meadowbrook Farm for forcing and care until the Flower Show time.

At the meeting some signed up for exhibit sitting times during the Flower Show, but there are still open time spaces. Contact Janet Whitefield to reserve your space. jntwhite863@gmail.com or 610-584-5158.

Set up and tear down of DVFWS exhibit will occur on Wednesday, February 26, and Monday, March 9, 2020. Please contact Leslie leslm5791@gmail.com *(editor's note: tear down has changed to Sunday, March 8th at 6:30pm.)*

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(Minutes continued from page 5)

Jenny Rose Carey, DVFWS member, and horticulture judge at the Flower Show, encouraged those of us with individual ferns to register them for the indoor show competition in the novice class. She explained that you can enter your plant on line until the end of January. <https://register.theflowershow.com>. The Exhibitor's Guide gives useful tips about potting, grooming, labeling, and transfer. Plants are judged on over all health, symmetry, form good for the type, rarity, and difficulty of growing. Please contact Leslie (leslm5791@gmail.com or 215-805-2591) with questions about entering ferns for judging.

6. **New business:** The Indoor Plant Society is looking for a speaker knowledgeable about indoor ferns. Please contact Rick if you are interested in doing this.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wilhelm, Secretary

Two Sister Fern Societies

National fern organizations are a joy to browse on the internet. They list much information about growing and propagating ferns on their web sites. These descriptions were taken from their websites.

The American Fern Society

<https://www.amerfernsoc.org/>

The American Fern Society is over 120 years old. With over 900 members worldwide, it is one of the largest international fern clubs in the world. It was established in 1893 with the objective of fostering interest in ferns and fern allies. They exchange information and specimens between members via their publications and spore exchange. They sponsor Fern Forays every summer to provide opportunities to learn more about wild ferns from experts and to meet other people with a similar passion for ferns. In January

1978, DVFS (before we added wildflowers) was welcomed as a new chapter.

The Hardy Fern Foundation

<https://hardyferns.org/>

In the Seattle area, a few individuals were captivated by ferns. In 1989 they came together and formed the Hardy Fern Foundation, to share their enthusiasm for this fabulous plant, to educate and to bring new ferns into cultivation. The organization grew. It developed relationships with fern enthusiasts around the world. Tapping into a long history of fascination with these ancient plants and cultivating an excitement not seen since the Victorian fern craze.

Today you can come to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, WA to see their collection of hardy ferns, growing in happy companionship with towering Douglas Firs and Red Cedars, a host of rare and exotic plants, and, of course, a world class collection of rhododendrons. Also, come to see their amazing stumpery garden. This spectacular garden is the largest of its kind built in over 100 years. The small group in 1989 has now grown to include national, international, and dedicated local members, each of them undertaking the wonderful walk into the unfurling world of ferns.

Their website lists DVFWS along with other American and international fern clubs in England, South Africa, Canada, and the Netherlands. <https://hardyferns.org/fern-websites/> Our Charter Member John Scott and deceased members Jack and Rose Marie Schieber have gone on forays with the British Pteridological Society also listed with Hardy Fern Foundation.

Our Society is already a part of these two Societies, but there are benefits for individual membership. Consider joining!

Member News

Member news for January:

Nancy Damaris letter: To all members,

I will have to discontinue my membership since I only drive very short distances and will soon be 87. John has been gone almost 2 years, but I am still at the house and go to a gym for classes regularly and doing well. I am unable to attend meetings and field trips. I hate to leave the society which John loved so much. I wish you all the best and have never been part of such a fine group of nature, fern lovers. John and I enjoyed our time with you.

Sincerely,

Nancy

New members

Gerald Leube

Mary Daniel

Lena Helen and Paul Filanowski

Pamela Morris Olshefski

Elizabeth Rizzo

New address Joan Detz see Membership Directory

(Membership directories will be sent when all the 2020 dues are in .)



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

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
28 Chancery Court
Souderton, PA 18964
215-868-0440

Web site: www.dvfws.org

Webmaster: Leslie Morris-Smith
leslm5791@gmail.com

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