

# Silphium HYBRIDS

By Hal Gardner

Of the *Silphium* genus a few species are found in Pennsylvania, if somewhat uncommon. For example, *Silphium trifoliatum* (whorled rosinweed) is found at Jennings Prairie near Slippery Rock and at Big Hollow Prairie in Centre County. *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup plant) is found throughout the Midwest and East, except for South Carolina and Florida. *Silphium laciniatum* (compass plant), *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (prairie dock), and *Silphium integrifolium* (rosinweed) are very typical of Midwestern tallgrass prairies. However, only *Silphium laciniatum* is found in Pennsylvania and a few other parts of the East. It is interesting that the pollen from *Silphium integrifolium* results in an unlikely cross with *Silphium laciniatum* giving *Silphium laciniatum* X *integrifolium* hybrid. Likewise, *Silphium laciniatum* cross-pollinates *Silphium*

*terebinthinaceum* giving *Silphium terebinthinaceum* X *laciniatum*. Without proof, I wonder if these hybrids indicate a recent speciation of these typical prairie plants; that is, given their ability to readily hybridize. Axelrod\* posits that little development of prairie species occurred because prairie is a recent phenomenon. That is, Native American people started burning prairie, which caused a tremendous increase in expanses of prairie at the expense of a parkland type of ecosystem. Most prairie species are thought to arise from plant species occupying these prehistoric parklands. Furthermore, Axelrod argued that nearly all species

of trees found in the East are also found in the Midwestern prairie region.

As an aside, all these plants can be seen at my restored tallgrass prairie in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, proving that they can be grown locally.

*Silphium laciniatum* X *integrifolium* (L); *Silphium terebinthinaceum* X *laciniatum* (R)



\*Axelrod, D.I. (1985) Rise of the grassland biome, central North America. *Botanical Review* 51: 163-201.

Illustrations courtesy of USDA-NCRS Plants Database. (L to R): *S. integrifolium*, *S. terebinthinaceum*, *S. laciniatum*.

# MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Jean Najjar

My roots go back to Germantown, a neighborhood in Philadelphia, where I remember shopping on Germantown Ave., the smell wafting up from the Superior Bakery, and the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

We didn't have much of a yard or garden until we moved out to the suburbs. As a teenager I worked in a couple of garden centers. I must have liked it, because I went to Penn State and studied Plant Science. While I was a student, I had the opportunity to be Plant-Science Intern of Dr. Ann Rhoads at the Morris Arboretum. I really didn't understand the significance of Ann's exploration of Pennsylvania Native Plants back then. W. C. Fields was right, "youth is wasted on the young." In any case Ann was always supportive and helped me to find my own path.

I returned to the Arboretum after graduating and worked as a seasonal gardener. Ann knew that I was interested in social issues and community gardens and she guided me to a small non-profit in Trenton, New Jersey called Isles, Inc. I spent the next three or so years working as a community

garden organizer and it was the best job I ever had.

I met my husband Ray during that time. He was headed to Colorado for a Post Doc, so I applied to University of Colorado and got my MLA. I feel lucky to have had studied Landscape Architecture but I never made it into a career. Within a year of my husband joining the faculty at Penn State we were expecting our first child.

I've spent most of the past 16 years at home, raising my three daughters, now 10, 13, and 16. Last winter I took a seasonal position with the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture doing auction fundraising. It is a great organization and I am happy to be back working for a good cause.

I will be using this newest skill set to help organize a fundraising auction for PNPS when we have plant sale this May. So let me get started. Please consider what you might donate to this important fundraiser for PNPS.

Just one more thing. I credit my sister Liz McDowell, for helping me to understand the imperative of promoting native plants in the landscape. Liz, you are my hero.



Sarah Chamberlain

I was born in Michigan, but at the age of twelve, we moved to Beaufort, South Carolina when my Dad was relocated for his job. It was 1976, and Beaufort was a sleepy little town, not the tourist mecca it is today. I was amazed and a little disappointed in how green it was, even in winter. I missed my deciduous forests and the brilliant fall colors, but soon fell in love with the towering live oaks dripping with Spanish moss.

At the University of South Carolina, I had the opportunity to spend my summers on a Loggerhead sea turtle project run by my biology professor. It was a magical experience and it convinced me that I should become a marine biologist. However, when I discovered that jobs with dolphins and sea turtles were few and far between, I switched my major to general biology, not sure in what direction my degree would take me.

After graduating with a BS in biology, I went on to do an internship at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Maryland. My research project focused on wetland plant responses to elevated carbon dioxide. It was my first introduction to plants. From Maryland I took a position at a consulting firm in New Jersey. I spent two summers working on field projects in New York and Pennsylvania. Our field crew leader was an excellent botanist and he taught me everything I know about plant identification. It was those two summers that cemented in my mind what I wanted to do. After completing my Masters at San Francisco State, I moved back to the East Coast and ended up eventually at Penn State.

I've been at Penn State University in State College now for 11 years working as a botanist at Riparia — a research facility in the Department of Geography. I mostly work on developing plant-based indicators for assessing wetland condition. I also teach workshops on plant identification, particularly the identification of grasses, sedges,

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# The End of the Newsletter?!!

We regret to announce that Maggie Harlan, who edited the beautiful newsletters we have enjoyed for the past few years, has resigned as editor. Thank you, Maggie, for all your hard work well done.

This vacancy presents an opportunity to reconsider our newsletter. The process is very labor intensive:

- Every three months the editor forages desperately for material, as few are forthcoming with ideas or will contribute an article, a book review, a photo or some news.
- Once enough material has been gathered, our graphic artist shapes it into a document that can be published.
- The file is sent to a printer, who makes the folded copies.
- Finally, a volunteer sticks on the labels and takes the finished newsletters to the post office.

Our question is — do we need a newsletter? There are good reasons to discontinue this practice.

First and foremost is the content. The toughest job is getting material. Until recently, this has been done by Maggie. If we continue, we need another volunteer to step up and take over this function.

Secondly, consider the cost. Each quarterly newsletter costs around \$280 for printing, around \$60 for postage. The formatting is a bargain at \$150. Total cost equals about \$490 a quarter, or \$1,960 each year.

We can all think of other ways to spend that amount—only a couple of examples include hiring speakers, contributing to educational events, and professional website and Facebook page maintenance.

Thirdly, there is the use of large quantities of paper.

If the consensus is to continue with a newsletter, electronic media offers a way to distribute information without paper. We can email the newsletter or just post news on the website and Facebook page. Many other organizations now use electronic media instead of mailing paper, including a number of native plant societies.

Here is the chance to voice your opinion. Tell us what you value about the newsletter, or don't. Would you prefer to get the information electronically or would that present a hardship? We invite you, as a member, to discuss the options and make your preferences known. You may write to us, email us, but please let us know.

and rushes. I'm currently working on a practical guide for the identification of grasses in Pennsylvania.

In my spare time I love to do anything outdoors — hiking, biking, and skiing to name a few. I also love to

travel and have been to both Alaska and Costa Rica. I have two sons, ages 7 and 10 and 3 cats, all of which, in addition to botanizing, keep me very busy!



Falene Hamilton

I grew up hiking with my parents in the San Francisco Bay area. They belonged to a subgroup of the local Sierra Club, the Natural Science Section, which sponsored lectures and hikes to study local fauna, flora, geology etc. I well remember my impatience as I waited for the group to finish keying out various plants during a weekend hike — I just wanted to hit the trail and hike! Because my Mother was co leader of a Junior Science Club run through the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, I learned to identify many of the distinctive plants that make California's flora so diversified and found out that I enjoyed learning about the natural history of my home state.

I majored, however, in art history at Mills College with a particular interest in Asian art since my parents and I had just returned from living in India for three years through my Father's job with Kaiser Engineers. I did graduate work in art history at Stanford University, but decided, after a year, to transfer to U.C. Berkeley to pursue a degree in art which was becoming my main interest. After my marriage in 1968, I followed my Chemist husband to Penn State

where I continued to take ceramic and weaving classes, finally settling on all aspects of weaving to explore. While raising a family I still took my weaving seriously enough to publish a few articles and have a rug of mine accepted in a juried show of Contemporary Rugs sponsored by the Textile Museum of Wash. D.C. That rug even traveled throughout South America as part of the museum's traveling show! This opened up a few opportunities for me to sell through galleries. Though I no longer weave rugs (back problems occurred), I continue to love the fiber arts and seek them out while traveling at home and abroad.

It has been through a local hiking group, however, that my interest in natural history has been rekindled. Exploring the trails of central PA for the past 35 years or so, especially in the spring, brought home to me the rich botanic heritage that exists here in my adopted state. I am certainly, to be sure, very much an amateur when it comes to identifying plants, but I am very concerned with conservation issues that effect the plant communities throughout the state and thus the very survival of our treasured native flora.

All people interested in the conservation of Pennsylvania's native flora are encouraged to attend this meeting. The Rare Plant Forum is a function of the Vascular Plant Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, and for over thirty years has served in an advisory role to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for issues related to the conservation of the native flora of Pennsylvania. In addition to discussing proposed changes to the list of Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania (POSCIP), there will be a few related presentations. This is an excellent opportunity to connect and work with other botanists, amateur and professional, who share your interest in the flora of Pennsylvania.

It is fitting for us to meet at a facility named for Otto E. Jennings, late Curator of Botany at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and early advocate of native plant conservation. If you know of people who might be interested in attending, especially in NW PA or adjacent parts of Ohio and New York, please extend this invitation to them.

The proposal form is in an Excel spreadsheet, downloadable at [www.paconserve.org/256](http://www.paconserve.org/256). Related documents such as the definitions of the status categories and the minutes from past meetings are also available here. Please start working on your proposals right away, as John Kunsman and I will need some lead time to help gather the data. Please submit your proposals by 4 March. Proposals will be posted to the above url shortly after I receive them, and a summary will be distributed at least a week before the meeting along with an agenda.

**Presentations.** You are encouraged to consider presenting on recent work you have done related to the conservation of the flora of our region. One of the advantages of holding the Rare Plant Forum is the opportunity to share the results of our work. This can increase the value of your work by allowing others to build upon it. It also encourages collaboration and minimizes duplication of effort. Email or call me with the subject and how much time you would like.

There will be time on the agenda for un-premeditated announcements, but it helps me plan if I have some idea how many there will be, so let me know if you can.

More information at <http://www.paconserve.org/256/pennsylvania-rare-plant-forum> along with minutes from past meetings etc.

**Dinner on Friday.** Some of us will be having dinner on Friday at North Country Brewing in Slippery Rock. Let me know ([sgrund@paconserve.org](mailto:sgrund@paconserve.org)) if you would like to join us; I will make a reservation. They have great beer, exceptional root beer, and good food, all in a remarkable old building with cool wood carvings an' 'at.

**River Running!** Some of us are going to take advantage of the spring thaw on Sunday to explore a local stream, probably Wolf Creek. WPC owns land at Wolf Creek Narrows where we can take out and botanize. It is one of the best spring wildflower sites in the Commonwealth. Some experienced whitewater enthusiasts might brave Slippery Rock Creek Gorge. Email Steve Grund at [sgrund@paconserve.org](mailto:sgrund@paconserve.org) if you are interested.

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## *Native Plants Journal*

The University of Wisconsin Press recently announced the addition of *Native Plants Journal* to its publishing program. The Press will begin publishing the journal in 2011 with volume 12.

*Native Plants Journal* is a forum for dispersing practical information about planting and growing North American native plants for conservation, restoration, reforestation, landscaping, highway corridors, and related uses. It is edited by R. Kasten Dumroese of the USDA Forest Service at the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

"We are very excited to begin working with the *Native Plants Journal* editorial staff. This title is a perfect fit for our publishing program as it joins our other environmental and land management publications: *Landscape Journal*, *Ecological Restoration*, *Land Economics*, and our many books in these fields," said Pam Wilson, UW Press journals manager.

Editor Kas Dumroese stresses that "The goal of *Native Plants Journal* is to 'cross pollinate' researchers and field

restorationists, therefore we publish refereed research manuscripts as well as general technical articles that share the real-world experiences of field personnel."

*Native Plants Journal* is published three times per year in full color and is available in both print and electronic formats. In addition to offering subscribers online access to new issues and all back issues, UW Press provides direct links to the Propagation Protocol Database. The first five volumes are freely accessible online. The journal is also included in Project MUSE. Please visit <http://npj.uwpress.org> to browse and search content, sign up for alerts, or subscribe.

The journal was founded in January 2000 as a cooperative effort of the USDA Forest Service and the University of Idaho, with input from the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The current publisher, Indiana University Press, will oversee publication through volume 11 (2010).

# Tallgrass Prairie Restoration in the Midwestern and Eastern United States:

*A Hands on Guide* by Harold "Hal" W. Gardner • Springer Publishing, NY

This work outlines all you need to know in establishing an attractive prairie on a large acreage field or your backyard. In Illinois the author restored many acres of prairie in State Parks, Nature Preserves, and private land. Upon moving to Pennsylvania, he created 25 acres of authentic Midwestern prairie on hilly shallow

shale soil near Carlisle, PA. Although this state was formerly forest, agriculture has opened large areas suitable for reestablishing prairie. Fully 90% of "prairie plants" exist now or formerly in undisturbed mountain openings and barrens, such as Serpentine Barrens in southeastern Pennsylvania and the barrens near State College. Unlike popular ideas about prairie as being only grasslands, prairies are comprised of a variety of grasses, sedges, and forbs (wildflowers). Although there are a few species of annual and biennial plants found on prairies, most are perennials with two-thirds of their mass underground as roots. Interestingly, Easterners prefer to name prairies as "meadows."

The book contains several sections, such as, Why Prairie, describing the aesthetic beauty of prairies. For example a traveler in the 1800's described the Midwestern prairie as, One of the most marvelous sights of my whole life, unsurpassed in my travels in nearly all parts of the world... A section on Prairie Origins outlines the creation of large expanses of prairie after the last ice age due largely by burning by native Americans. Eco-system Diversity explains that prairies are rarely identical because of soil moisture, amount of shade, and locale giving a richness of variety. Prairies Attract Wildlife outlines the amazing variety of insects, arachnids, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals found in prairies. The section of Native Prairie



Species describes 193 commonly found prairie species with photos, and another 34 species described without photos. Advice is given regarding seed germination, soil moisture/structure, full sun, and shade requirements. A section on Restoration Methods outlines everything you need to know about how to create your own prairie.

Small sections of Food for Insects and Wildlife, Prairie Eco-systems in Farming Practice, and Global Warming are included. Woody plants, brush and trees, need to be controlled, especially in the East, by burning maintenance described by Fire Management, or one can simply mow at strategic times. Control of Alien Plants is particularly important in the East where there have been hundreds of years of introduction of aggressive alien plants. It is important to eliminate the aggressive perennials before proceeding with restoration, but controlling reintroduction is an ongoing task. Methods for control are given, but it is emphasized that a tight native ecology is also an important strategy. Forty-five References to other publications are included. A 33-page Appendix lists over 1,000 plants found on prairies with specific information, if known, about the plant. Over 600 Computer-scanned herbarium samples and Scanned Seeds and Seed-heads are available at the Springer Website. A book outline can be viewed at: <http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/book/978-1-4419-7426-6>

Your President, Debra Grim, contributed a photograph for this book, which was taken on our prairie tour to Illinois in 2009. PA Native Plant Society member, Professor Norman Deno, provided germination data for many of the plants.

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## PA Rare Plant Forum CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

**Camping.** We have reserved the Muskrat Cove group camping site at Moraine State Park for Friday and Saturday (<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/moraine/>

[moraine\\_mini.pdf](#)). This will be primitive camping with water, but no hot water. The cost will be \$10/night divided between everyone who camps. Please contact Kelly Sitch at [c-ksitch@state.pa.us](mailto:c-ksitch@state.pa.us) if you are interested.



# *Appalachian Forest School* Boundary Waters Region, Ely Minnesota • July 16-23

## Forests of the Far North: The Temperate Forest's Dance with the Boreal North Woods

Teachers, nature enthusiasts, naturalists, outdoor educators, biologists, adventurers, home school parents, and students of biodiversity: This is an excellent opportunity for deep, holistic, field-oriented cross-disciplinary education. No previous experience necessary except an undying curiosity about the natural world.

The Appalachian Forest School presents: Forests of the Far North. We will be joined by expert naturalists — including black bear researcher Dr. Roger A. Powell; arctic adventurer Paul Schurke; and award winning authors of books in the North Woods Naturalist series Joe Walewski and Kurt Mead, among others. Spend a week in the field on site in the North Woods with these authorities as they demonstrate the amazing interconnectedness of this remote and fragile eco-system.

Please see the Appalachian Forest School website

<http://www.highlandssanctuary.org/WE/AFS.htm> for a detailed itinerary of the trip, tuition info and registration form. The Appalachian Forest School limits participation for this trip to 25 people, so sign up as soon as possible to guarantee your spot.

To really understand and interpret nature in the temperate forest of the eastern United States, it is essential to understand the whole forest — a world-crossing biome with many interconnected expressions. The Appalachian Forest School is a non-profit initiative to increase awareness of and provide education about the temperate forest as a holistic system. This year, the AFS is also sponsoring: The Northern Appalachians; Alpine Ecology of New England, and Butterflies of the Forest Heartland. The Appalachian Forest School is sponsored by the Arc of Appalachia Preserve System in Bainbridge, Ohio.

## Calendar of Events

**SRWA Native Plant Demonstration & Sale** — April 30, New Germany State Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Native plant enthusiasts will answer your questions about native plants, conservation landscaping and backyard wildlife habitat practices. A variety of native plants will be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the Savage River Watershed Association. For more information contact the Savage River Watershed Association at [SRWAdirector@gmail.com](mailto:SRWAdirector@gmail.com) or call Liz McDowell, SRWA native plant sale coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

**Directions** — From I-68 take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road. Signs will direct you to the native plant display and sale.

**Allegheny Mountain Green Fest** — Natural Biodiversity is excited to announce the first annual Allegheny Mountain Green Fest: Green Your Routine! The event will be held on May 14th, at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown's Living Learning Center, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The theme of this year's event is Going Green Starts at Home. The mission of the Allegheny Mountain Green Fest is to propagate an enthusiastic, green spirit, prompting the people of the Allegheny Mountains to take personal action and care for our local environment,

global community and future generations.

With both indoor and outdoor event space, the Allegheny Mountain Green Fest will include a Native Plant Sale, several workshops, a Kids Patch area for environmental education activities and an Eco Expo of green organizations, businesses and agencies. The keynote speaker for this event will be host of NPR's You Bet Your Garden, Mike McGrath. Keep an eye on the Outdoor Heritage Month Website <http://ohmonth.com/greenfest.shtml> for more details.

**SRWA Garden Tour and Native Plant Sale** — May 28, Elk Ridge Native Plant Preserve, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tour this wildlife habitat garden to see a variety of conservation landscaping and wildlife habitat practices you can use to enhance biodiversity around your home, school, or office. Experience the joys of conservation landscaping: a garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies and beautiful plants. Free guided tours at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. A variety of native plants will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Savage River Watershed Association. For more information email the Savage River Watershed Association at [SRWAdirector@gmail.com](mailto:SRWAdirector@gmail.com) or call Liz McDowell, SRWA native plant sale coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

If you do not have access to the website, call Debra Grim at 814-355-4102 for more details.

## Blair Woodland Conference

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Forestry, the Blair Woodland Association, and the Allegheny Mt. Woodland Association will be hosting a woodland conference on Saturday, March 12 at the Ramada Altoona Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Advance registration of \$10 per person is required which includes lunch.

The conference will be an educational opportunity for anyone who is interested in sustaining our forest resources. Speakers will include faculty members from The Pennsylvania State University, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and others. The topics will include: opportunities for woodland management in Pennsylvania, estate planning, bats, American ginseng, and timber rattlesnakes.

This marks the third year in a row for this event. It is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about Pennsylvania forests. Attendees include owners of private forest lands, forest consultants, members of other local environmental groups, and outdoor enthusiasts. Members of the Blair Woodland Association and the Allegheny Mt. Woodland Association will be present to provide information about upcoming educational events for the remainder of 2011. These organizations enable landowners to exchange information, educate others, and discuss current forestry issues.

Please call the PA Bureau of Forestry at 814-472-1862 for more information. Registrations must be received by March 3, and can be sent to the Blair Woodland Association, 3227 Pinewood Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

## Native Plants Conference

Millersville, June 1–4. [www.millersvillenativeplants.org](http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org). Online registration will be open on March 15, 2011! Have questions about registration? Email [nativeplants@millersville.edu](mailto:nativeplants@millersville.edu) or call 717.871.2189.

2011 speakers include: Rick Darke on “The Layered Landscape”; Lee Reich on “Edible Native Plants”; Mace Vaughan on “The Future of Pollinators”; Gary Smith on “The Future of Public Gardens”; Angela Palmer on “Marketing to Future Generations”; and Nina Bassuk on “Native Trees for Urban Sites”.

The Native Plants in the Landscape Conference Mission: To increase the knowledge, propagation, cultivation and use of native plants in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions. To promote methods of land management and design that respect “sense of place” by preserving and restoring species and natural processes as well

as to engender an appreciation of regionally appropriate, sustainable landscapes that are harmonious for people and nature. While the subject of the conference pertains to native plant communities, the spirit of the conference is to build human communities among a broad range of participants by designing a conference affordable to all, encouraging formal and informal exchanges of information and providing opportunities for social interaction. The conference is held on the campus of Millersville University in picturesque, historic Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

All abuzz with anticipation of the conference and all there is to chat about native plants NOW? Why wait until June to start the networking? Join our page on Facebook and start chattering away with your fellow native plants enthusiasts! <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/pages/Native-Plants-In-the-Landscape-Conference-Millersville/309895589268?v=info>.

## Membership Renewal

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- ☐ Individual \$15  
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**Become a Life Member  
this year!**

Please make checks payable to: **PA Native Plant Society**, PO Box 807, Boalsburg PA 16827. As a 501c-3 non-profit educational organization, PNPS requests your contributions in addition to, or instead of, regular membership. Ongoing memberships in PNPS coincide with the calendar year.



*Epigaea repens L.*

Please make sure that you inform us of your current email address and let us know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically. Send email addresses and change of addresses to [albright@penn.com](mailto:albright@penn.com). Thank you!

*Pennsylvania*

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## Save the Date!

**PNPS Native Plant Sale**    Saturday, May 8  
Shaver's Creek Environmental Center    Great vendors  
Huntingdon County    All plants native to Pennsylvania!

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Free admission    ☞ Plant ID and horticulture information    ☞ Children's activities  
Plant walks    ☞ Lectures    ☞ Silent auction    ☞ Food    ☞ Nature-related art for sale

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Volunteers are needed to assist with plant walks, silent auction and man the PNPS information booth.  
All levels of expertise are welcome! Please email [info@pawildflower.org](mailto:info@pawildflower.org) if you can help, and indicate what you would like to do. This is our one big fundraiser and we need everyone's help.

Check the website for more information.