

Horticulture Field Day: “A Walk On The Wild Side”

by Gale Roberts, GCV Horticulture Committee Member
The Williamsburg Garden Club

One of the goals of the Horticulture Committee when planning “A Walk on the Wild Side” was to generate discussion amongst our members about designing with native plants. We left Wintergreen at the end of Horticulture Field Day having thrilled to the tranquil, subtle beauty of the private gardens filled with native plants and woodland walks.

Upon arrival on Wednesday evening, participants walked the Shamokin Springs Nature Preserve Trail. This 13-acre forested tract is a unique ecosystem, with northern species of trees, shrubs and wildflowers not seen elsewhere in Wintergreen.

Thursday morning we gathered at the Mountain Inn where Rosemary Wallinger (Mrs. M. Bruce), Horticulture Chairman, encouraged us in her opening remarks to learn more about ecologically sound garden design and horticultural practices. Fran Boninti (Mrs. Andrew F.) then introduced the keynote speaker, landscape designer Ian Robertson of Charlottesville. While delighting us with amusing gardening anecdotes, he also gave us his more serious horticultural tips: make careful plant choices, garden organically, know and follow IPM, and take time to “wander through the woods and wonder.”

Afternoon garden tours included the private Angermann garden, Dunlop garden, and Merrick garden,



Mrs. Angermann at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Garden, Wintergreen.

each charmingly planted with native and non-native species. The unique Gilman garden featured only natives. Guides stationed at each garden identified plants for the inquisitive.

The day's itinerary also included a visit to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Garden. Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Angermann and other volunteers of The Wintergreen Nature Foundation (TWNF) maintain this educational garden.

Other gardeners who helped the Committee were Dahne and Chip Morgan and Tom Dierhauf, members of both the Virginia Native Plant Society and The Wintergreen Nature Foundation. All made Field Day 2001 truly “A Walk on the Wild Side.” We commend the entire Horticulture Committee for giving us a memorable and educational experience.