

Rosa carolina, Carolina Rose or Pasture Rose

*Stabilize a slope, create a hedge
to deter deer and watch the birds
through the winter*

Lisa McDonald, Landscape Architect
and co-owner at Redbud Native Plant Nursery

Robust and adaptable with year-round interest, ease of cultivation with little need for maintenance other than keeping it in its place are hard characteristics to say no to in the garden. Reflecting its broad flexibility of habitat types from dry-mesic slopes to human influenced spaces to the edges of streams, the Carolina rose has a native range that covers the majority of the East Coast into the middle interior of North America. Its abundant early summer blooms are followed by beautiful fall colors that transition into winter interest with reddish-brown to dark brown canes and bright red rose hips that persist through the winter. Carolina rose performs best in full sun and has less foliar fungal diseases with good airflow.

Being in the rose family, it is a keystone species hosting caterpillars of many moths and butterflies; the pollen-laden blooms attract a wide range of pollinators. The round fruit or hips that follow the flowers are a tart but nutritious snack for people, birds and small mammals alike. Rose leaves, bark, stems, and roots have a long tradition in natural medicines. The dense, thorny thickets it forms with erect canes provide nesting habitat and make impenetrable hedges, though white-tailed deer and rabbits may browse the twigs and foliage.

Carolina and Virginia roses can easily be confused. Generally, Virginia rose (*R. virginiana*) has fewer thorns, leaves with seven to

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Slender Flower Longhorn Beetle (*Strangalia famelica*)



Rose hips in fall



August foliage with rose hips forming



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

It has been my privilege to serve as the PA Native Plant Society President for the past two years. In this time, we have worked to redesign the PNPS website (coming soon!), revise the chapter establishment process, and expand support for our grant program. These changes will set the foundation for future organizational growth and community connection around native plants.

This work is not done in isolation, it takes a dedicated board, chapters, and members. Thank you to all who have served on the PNPS board. This summer, Sarah Chamberlain, a longstanding board member and past president, has moved to North Carolina where she will continue her great native plant work with her local North Carolina Native Plant Society chapter. Thank you for all you've given to PNPS, North Carolina is lucky to have you!

I want to thank Andrea Ferich, our past-president, for her leadership over the last 6 years. Andrea's term will be coming to an end, but she leaves a legacy of advocacy. Most notably, Andrea spearheaded the Native Plant Green Seal Pledge, a PNPS program that creates transparency for consumers and advertises the commitment to native plant landscaping for nurseries that pledge to sell more than 50% of their nursery stock as natives. It's a win-win! See Native Plant Sources under our Resources tab on the PNPS website to find the closest Green Seal Nursery to you. Look for the Happy Bumble Bee icon!

Sadly, I must share that Jaci Braund has announced her resignation from the board. Since 2021, Jaci has been a board member, spearheading our efforts and serving as Treasurer and Vice President over the years. I'm grateful for her work on the grants program which has grown immensely and directly supports our mission. With that said we all appreciate that life can interfere with our best laid plans and Jaci no longer has the time available to commit to her leadership role with PNPS. She will continue to support the organization in the coming months to ease a transition of responsibilities. We will miss Jaci and wish her the best as she grows in new directions.

Fortunately, this is one of those cases where one door closes and another opens. After learning of Jaci's plans to step down from the Board, I reached out to my mentor, Dr. Chris Sacchi, a retired Biology/Botany/Ecology Professor from Kutztown University. Chris has agreed to step into Jaci's role as Vice President and will attend our September meeting so that the board can make that appointment. Look for more details in our next eNewsletter.

Thank you for joining us and caring about native plants. In ecology, we define a community as all living things in a given time, in a given place. Keep building community in your life by connecting people to people and people to nature.

— *Best, Cat Pugh*

PNPS News

■ PNPS Grants 2027

PNPS is pausing the Grant program in 2027 as the Board reviews the grant process. We look forward to funding projects in 2028. If you would like to be involved with the grant project please reach out. Email info@panativeplantsociety.org

■ PNPS Board of Directors

The election for the PNPS Board of Directors for the 2027–2028 Term will be held by electronic ballot, which members will receive via email in September. Electronic ballots must be submitted by October 23rd. Alternatively, members can vote in-person at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 24.

■ PNPS Treasurer Appointed

The PNPS Board appointed Christine Danforth as Treasurer at their August meeting. Christine lives in Centre County and is the Central Pennsylvania Forest Projects Coordinator for Alliance for the Bay, a non-profit committed to restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

■ Seeking Member Input

PNPS Notes, our print newsletter is a benefit of membership, published twice a year in January and August, to share PNPS news and information; as well as articles about native plants to inspire and educate. We are seeking contributions from you, our members, to make it better!

What type of contributions?

We'd like to highlight your creativity and passion for native plants and the environment. We welcome contributions of articles, poetry, prose, drawings, and photographs highlighting native plants. Contributions may appear in PNPS Notes, our eNewsletter, or on our website and/or our social media pages. We will credit all



work according to the wishes of submitters.

To make a submission or learn more please send an email to [Jean Najjar](mailto:Jean.Najjar@panativeplantsociety.org) at info@panativeplantsociety.org

Garden Bliss February 2026 eNews,
Merrill David

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

Cathryn Pugh	President
Jaci Braund	Vice-President
Andrea Ferich	Past President
Christine Danforth	Treasurer
Andrea Glang-Polozikova	Recording Secretary
Doug Mason	Corresponding Secretary

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Sarah Chamberlain	Membership Chairperson
Merrill David	
Kristen Devlin	
Linda Ferich	Chapter Representative, Lancaster
Danielle Lanagan	
Jean Najjar	Newsletter Editor
Andrew Conboy	Social Media Chair

SAVE THE DATE!

2026 PNPS Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 24 • 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Shaver's Creek Environmental Center • Petersburg, PA
Free and Open to the Public



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

8:00–9:15 AM

Choose from two walks:

- Morning Bird Walk (No limit)
- Forest Therapy Walk (Limit 10)

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Registration and Plant Sale

10:00–10:15 AM

PNPS Business Meeting

10:15–11:00 AM

Cat Pugh — Riparian Buffers:
Eat, Weave, and Conserve

11:00–11:45 AM

Grant Awardees

11:45–12:30 PM

Lunch (bring your own) and Plant Sale

12:30–1:15 PM

Derek Kalp

1:15–2:00 PM

Plant Sale

Registration Opens September 1st
panativeplantsociety.org/2026-annual-meeting

Reflections on My Time with the Board

by Jaci Braund

Jaci resigned from the PNPS Board, effective August 19, 2026

I started on the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society board back in 2021 as the treasurer and really enjoyed putting my skills to work behind the scenes. I eventually volunteered to revamp the grant program, which has been the highlight of my time on the board. It was extremely fulfilling to help support meaningful, on-the-ground native plant projects across the state.

My career has always been dedicated to botany, natural resources, ecology, and, of course, native plants. Over the years, it has been incredible to watch the public excitement and passion for native plants grow exponentially. Today, the PNPS mission is stronger than ever.



I am so grateful for my time serving on the board and for all the wonderful people I've worked alongside. As I step down, I look forward to continuing my enthusiasm for exciting native plants in the wild and adding even more native diversity to my own yard.

Thank you all for an incredible journey!

Sarah at work at the Penn State Herbarium



Over Two Decades of Service

Sarah Chamberlain stepped down from the board this year, having moved to North Carolina for her next adventure.

Change is never easy, and though inevitable, it can catch us by surprise. It is with great appreciation that we bid a fond farewell to Sarah Chamberlain, who has served on the board for over two decades. Sarah led our participation in several Upper Delaware BioBlitz events and encouraged our support of the creation of demonstration gardens at local schools. Sarah served as President in 2021–2022 and has served as Membership Chair since 2023. Throughout her tenure, she has been a valuable team player, bringing expertise as a botanist specializing in grasses and sedges. Did you know that she is a published author? Look for the *Field Guide to Grasses of the Mid-Atlantic* published in 2018. Sarah, we will miss you and we wish you the best!

Ex situ Conservation of Two Globally Rare Dwarf Evergreen Shrubs

Ex situ collections are our insurance policy that if something happens, we won't lose the unique adaptations and genetics found in that population.

Cheyenne Moore, PA Plant Conservation
Network Coordinator, PA DCNR

Reprinted from: *Forest Focus The Bureau
of Forestry Newsletter, Summer 2024*

The Pennsylvania Plant Conservation Alliance (PPCA) is charged with conserving and stewarding the dozen or so globally rare plants that Pennsylvania is home to. When tackling rare plant conservation, one of the first steps is ex situ conservation or establishing a collection of the population or species outside of the wild. This can be done through seed banking or with living collections. We do this in case an event would occur that could result in significant or total loss of a population (e.g. wildfire, landslide, human disturbance). Ex situ collections are our insurance policy that if something happens, we won't lose the unique adaptations and genetics found in that population.

The PPCA has identified some key partners to help with this. Longwood Gardens, as well as a few newer partner gardens, been working with the PPCA to get various species into ex situ collections. Some of the species that have been prioritized for ex situ conservation in PA are those with three or less populations left in the wild in the state which includes box huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*) and Canby's Mountain-lover (*Paxistima canbyi*). Both of these globally rare plants are Appalachian endemic species that reach the northern end of their range in Pennsylvania. There are three populations of each in Pennsylvania.

Getting plants into ex situ collections is not always as straight forward as collecting seed for seed banking or propagation. Both box huckleberry and Canby's Mountain-lover are not known to set viable seed in Pennsylvania. Meaning in the case of box huckleberry, research has shown the seeds don't germinate well, and in the case of Canby's Mountain-lover, only one seed has been found on PA plants since the species was found in PA.

The alternative in both cases is taking spring cuttings of the plants and rooting those cuttings in a mist chamber or moist soil. Once plants are rooted, trained horticulturist can divide the cuttings and multiply the number of plants.

Dr. Peter Zale at Longwood Gardens has been instrumental in getting these protocols established. We now have all three populations of both box huckleberry and Canby's Mountain-lover in collection. We're also now helping to connect Longwood to other states

with struggling populations of these species. For example, one of Ohio's two rapidly declining populations of *Paxistima canbyi* will have cutting collected and sent to Longwood in the next couple of months. Chris Bedel, steward at the Ohio population, said it best, "These collaborations are exciting because conservation of plant species works best at the range wide scale not just the state scale."

The Pennsylvania Plant Conservation Alliance looks forward to sharing results from ongoing work with these species as well as others!

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Annual Report 2025

Read the full report on their conservation projects:
<https://naturalheritage.dcnr.pa.gov>



GREEN ALDER

Green alder (*Alnus crispa*) is a Pennsylvania Endangered shrub of open uplands that ranges from Greenland to Canada, and southward to disjunct populations in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Only two occurrences are known in Pennsylvania, and one was thought to be extirpated. In 2025, DCNR and WPC botanists revisited the apparently extirpated population, and worked with community scientist Mark Simonis to coordinate a visit to the other site. Mark found plants and collected vouchers and leaf material that will be included in a genetic study in collaboration with the University of North Carolina Asheville that will evaluate the relatedness of green alder occurrences in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. WPC, DCNR





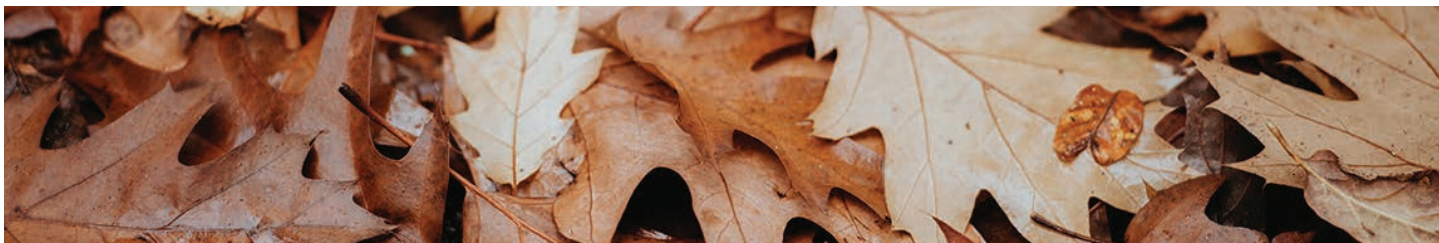
Box huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*) at the Box Huckleberry Natural Area in District 3.



Above and above right: Canby's Mountain-lover (*Paxistima canbyi*) in the wild.

Right: Canby's Mountain-lover in propagation at Longwood Gardens.





Leave the Leaves: Winter Habitat Protection

Reprint from Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
<https://xerces.org/leave-the-leaves>

Where do insects and other invertebrates go in the winter? The vast majority “overwinter,” or spend winter, right where they spent all summer — just less active and more hidden.

Think twice before you rake, mow, and blow this year. Invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and insulate them from the elements. Whatever your landscape, you can ensure that resources for nests and overwintering habitat are available.

Just Leave It: Types of Winter Habitat

If you’ve provided native and diverse habitat for invertebrates and pollinators during the growing season, helping those invertebrates in the winter is almost as simple as doing nothing. Leave those habitats alone for winter.



Woolly bear caterpillar (Photo: Jo Zimny Photos, Flickr)



Tiger swallowtail butterfly's chrysalis (Photo: Dean Morley, Flickr)

- **Leaves** — Important invertebrates will find a home in leaves a couple of inches thick, which mimics natural ecosystems.
- **Hollow stems** — Stems hollow out when plants die off, providing cavities in which critters can make a home or nest.
- **Trees, branches and brush** — Brush piles and trees provide winter habitat. Dead trees and hollowed branches are useful spaces.
- **Soil** — While invertebrates are always plentiful in the soil, additional species will join in the dirt in winter, preferably insulated with leaves or brush.

Invertebrates and Their Winter Habitats

- Great spangled fritillary and woolly bear caterpillars tuck themselves into leaf piles for protection from cold weather and predators.
- Red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge.
- Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves, blending in with the “real” leaves.
- Bumble bees create nests in cavities underground, in trees, or in brush piles. They prefer abandoned rodent burrows. At the end of summer, mated queen bumble bees burrow only an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. An extra thick layer of leaves is welcome protection from the elements.
- 30% of native bees are tunnel-nesting, such as leafcutter and mason bees. These solitary-nesting species need narrow tunnels or other tiny spaces in dead wood, hollow stems, or brush piles.
- Yellow spotted millipede juveniles eat humus, the rich organic layer of decayed plants and animal matter at the surface of the forest floor.
- Stick insects drop more than 100 eggs from treetops that free-fall to the ground, where they overwinter in the leaf litter until spring. These eggs are disguised to look just like seeds. The ruse attracts ants, who take the seeds back to their nests and bury them, where the baby stick insects hatch safely beneath the soil.

Fall Cleanup in Moderation

Leaving the leaves and other plant debris doesn’t have to mean sacrificing your yard to the wilderness. The leaves don’t need to be left exactly where they fall. You can rake them into garden beds, around tree bases, or into other designated areas. Too many leaves can kill grass, but in soil they can suppress weeds, retain moisture, and boost nutrition.

Avoid shredding leaves with a mower. Raking or blowing (electric) are alternatives that will keep leaves whole for the best cover and protect the insects and eggs already living there.

If you decide you need to clean up the leaves and debris in spring, make sure you wait until late in the season so as not to destroy all the life you’ve worked to protect.



Spread the Word

Leaves have a tendency to blow in the wind, often passing through several yards on the way to their final destination. Let your neighbors know your yard is playing an important role in the ecosystem.

One way to share the message is with a Xerces "Leaves the Leaves" sign. Signs are available in our gift center in exchange for a donation. Each sign comes with a year membership to the Xerces Society and supports our work to conserve invertebrates and their habitats.

Another option is to share your dedication to the cause on social media with the hashtag #LeaveTheLeaves.

Rosa carolina or Pasture Rose

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nine leaflets where Carolina rose has five to seven leaflets. Leaf stipules are the traditional way to tell these roses apart; Virginia rose stipules flare at the upper end. Carolina rose flowers are generally borne singly on the ends of the current year's growth, but Virginia rose usually bears flowers on second or third year canes. The two to



Common Eastern Bumble Bee
(*Bombus impatiens*)

three inch wide five-petaled flowers on both roses are a soft pink color that fades with age and the centers are a bright yellow. Virginia rose can be slightly taller than Carolina rose which is generally three to four and a half feet tall. Each shrub rose can spread by rhizome into dense thickets, of more than six feet wide if allowed, especially with more available moisture.

Prune in late winter to early spring. Young stems are brighter in color. Leaving some dead, hollow stems provide nesting sites for native bees. Suckers can be removed on a yearly basis to control spreading in a garden setting.

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