

NEWSLETTER

February 2022



P.O. Box 111, GLEN FORREST, WA 6071P

Meet: Octagonal Hall, 52, McGlew Rd., Glen Forrest.
4th Friday of the month. [Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm](#)

Committee 2022

President: Penny Hussey

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Peter Day

Secretary: Janet Atkins

Committee Members:

June Barkman

Mal Myers

Maxine Tyler

Robin Rudeforth

Email:

For all email contact to individual Committee Members please use the WSWA's generic email:

eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/easternhillswildflowersoc/>

“As we will not be recording vaccination status (only asking to sight vaccination proof or exemption status) it will be necessary for attendees to bring proof with them and sign in on a paper register or scan the QR code when there is one.

“Note that it is currently a government requirement for everyone to wear a mask indoors and that it is likely that this requirement will be in place for some time to come.”

Unless a lockdown is called, scheduled events will go ahead, but with the restrictions above to be followed by attendees.

Hopefully, things will get easier sometime in the future.

EHB Committee

COVID RULES:

The Management Committee of the Wildflower Society of Western Australia has sent an edict to all branches which states:

“All people who attend a WSWA premises, being leased, rented or occupied by a branch or group, for any purpose must show proof of double vaccination.

“Those who have exemption from vaccination must show a (valid medical) certificate to that effect EVERY time they attend out premises [medical vaccination exemption certificates can have expiry dates] AND wear a mask, whether or not mandated by Government.

Coming Events Feb.

Thursday 3rd February

Committee Meeting

3pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 9th and 23rd February

Seed Cleaning

9am Octagonal Hall

Monday 21st February

Propagation Group.

Octagonal Hall, 12 noon.

Evening Meeting

Friday 25th February

“Nutritional Ecology of Carnivorous Plants”

Laura Skates

Laura works at Kings Park and has just finished her PhD on this topic. Australia as

a whole and WA in particular is a centre of diversity for one group of these fascinating plants, the Droseras. But we have other genera too. **What is it about our nutrient-poor environment that has facilitated plants evolving to eat animals?** Come along and find out!

There will be a Quiz and a nature table.

Coming Events March

Thursday 3rd March

Committee Meeting

3pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 9th and 23rd March

Seed Cleaning

9am Octagonal Hall

Monday 21st FMarch

Propagation Group.

Octagonal Hall, 12 noon.

Evening Meeting

Friday 25th March

“Plants and Pollenators”

Byron Lamon

Byron Lamont is Emeritus Professor of Biology at Curtin University with thousands of research papers to his name. He is currently very interested in how plants communicate with their pollinators. But he is a mine of information on all sorts of stuff – so have your questions ready!

There will be a Quiz and a Nature Table.

The Plant Sale

Will be held on
Saturday 7th May

(Covid permitting)

REPORTS

Evening Meeting Friday 26th November

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The Quiz was a retrospective of the Branch’s activities during 2021, and everyone tackled it individually. The winner was Mal Myers who got 13 out of 15 questions correct. Brilliant!

The nature table was full of interesting flowers, many from Jan Pittman’s block at Gidgiegannup.

A requirement of the Hall insurance is that a Fire Drill be conducted annually, so one was held during the AGM. It proved to be rather hilarious, with noise and excitement! Let’s hope we never have to do it for real. Please remember everyone, that there is an ‘emergency escape plan’ attached to the electrical box by the front door – do read it when you have a spare moment.

The feature topic was very close to home. Jan Pittman’s block at Gidgiegannup was engulfed in the Woorooloo Wildfire, though Jan and her partner saved the house. First, Pam Riordan set the scene by describing how simple monitoring sites had been set up, then visited at bimonthly intervals to record the bushland’s recovery after the fire.

Jan then described the harrowing events as the fire roared around them and the next day they reviewed the damage – an incinerated caravan and giant excavator, ancient trees felled and no birds singing. But, steadily, the bushland vegetation is regrowing, including a profusion of orchids. For humans, fire is always a disaster. For the bush, it can be a renewal.

Wildflower Ramble Sunday 26th November

The scheduled ramble in Nan MacMillan Reserve did not take place. It was very hot, and people just did not feel like walking! I couldn’t help remembering that last year, it rained on the November rambles!

Penny Hussey

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

A branch from the mallee planted in the garden along the road broke off and fell onto

the front wall. As the raffle was being cleared away, it became obvious that several branches were dying back and the whole tree was riddled with termites, so it was cut back hard.



Photo: Pam Riordan

It is the ability of termites to eat the dead heartwood but not the sapwood which produces the hollow branches that Aboriginal people use to make didgeridoos. When looking for a new piece of timber, the instrument maker would tap the mallee stems of correct thickness and experience allowed him to recognise the hollow sound of one ready for cutting.

Penny Hussey

OPPORTUNITY! WANT TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE? EHB WLL SPONSER YOU!

There are often conferences and seminars run by various organisations in WA that are relevant to the aims of the Wildflower Society, attendance at which would help to increase the knowledge and skillbase of our members. Such event topics might include wetland management, plant identification, fire management, revegetation techniques etc. Sometimes they are free, but sometimes there is an entrance fee.

The EHB Committee has decided to offer to pay such fees for EHB members, with the

proviso that you describe the main findings of the event at the next Branch meeting.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, write to the Committee, giving details of the event and, briefly, how you think it would help you to know, grow, conserve or enjoy wildflowers better.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Verticordia chrysantha **Yellow Featherflower**

This is a small shrub up to 1.5m tall and wide which becomes covered from September to December in glorious golden flowers (which is what the specific name means, from the Greek for gold and flower). Occasionally the flowers are scented. As they age the flowers may turn orange or red-bronze.



This is a very widespread species, from Kalbarri through the South-west to Esperance (where this photo was taken) and inland to Peak Charles. Within this range, it may have different forms in particular areas. It can grow on various soils including sandy gravel, laterite and around granite.

Propagation is usually by cuttings, but they are difficult to strike. There is a specimen growing in the Octagonal Hall garden.

Robin Rudeforth

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Wildflower Society of WesternAustralia