

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

A CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Vol. 10, No 2

April, 1993

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- April 18** Sweet Annie's Hollow Field Trip. Meet at 2:00 P.M. at Cahas Knob Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, milepost 139. We will then walk to the Hollow at milepost 138.5. Butch Kelly, leader.
- April 23, 24 & 25** Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage by the Science Museum of Western Virginia. On Friday evening, Bill Hunley will be presenting "Native Plants and Wildlife" at Virginia Western Community College. A reception will follow. There is no charge for this event. (See box at bottom of this page for details.) For a listing of events, contact them at (703) 342-5710. Cosponsored by the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society.
- May 2** Bent Mountain Field Trip at 2:30 P.M. to Carol & Bob Whiteside's property. Go 2 1/2 miles past Cave Spring Corners on Route 221 South and turn left onto Cotton Hill Road. Go 1/2 mile then immediately after going under a Blue Ridge Parkway bridge, turn right onto Shingle Ridge Road (road sign may be missing). Go 1/4 mile; the mailbox will be on the left. The road makes such a sharp left bend that the Whitesides' drive, although on the right, will be approached straight on. There is a red gate by their drive. Go about 1/4 mile to the house at the end of the dirt and gravel road. Bring a bag supper.
- May 8** Ninth Annual Plant Sale. Virginia Western Community Arboretum on the campus of Virginia Western Community College, from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. This will be in conjunction with several other functions at the Arboretum. See article elsewhere in this Newsletter. Rich Crites, coordinator.
- May 22** Picnic at the Smith Mountain Lake home of Curtis and Carlene Downey. Bring your own beverage, service setting and a covered dish to share. Burgers will be provided but to help in planning quantities, please call Frank Coffey, (804) 332-5757, or Pam Wieringo, (703) 343-8596, if you plan to attend. It would be nice to bring a wildflower for the Downeys' yard.
- May 24** General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., Center in the Square. Duncan Porter, Professor of Botany at Virginia Tech, will present "Rare and Endangered Species of Virginia." Many of Virginia's endangered plants are aquatic, so these will be of special interest to some of our members.
- June 12** Rhododendrons, Music and a Picnic. Our annual Rhododendron Day will begin with breakfast at the Peaks of Otter Restaurant at 8:00 A.M. or at 10:00 A.M. at the Visitor Center. Bring a bag lunch; we'll plan to eat at the picnic area around 1:00 P.M. Frank Coffey will provide entertainment for us.

WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE KICKOFF

DATE: April 23, 1993 **TIME:** 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Virginia Western Community College, Whitman Auditorium

SPEAKER & PROGRAM

Bill Hunley — Native Plants and Wildlife

A reception will follow. Come and Bring a Friend

The Lily Family

Dorothy C. Bliss

The lily family is a complex group of plants with 77 species known to occur in Virginia and more than 2500 species world-wide. Many are showy ornamentals such as Tiger Lilies and Hyacinths, several are a source of food, for example, onions and asparagus, and a few are poisonous, Lily-of-the-Valley and False Hellebore.

When are lilies not lilies? The yellow Pond Lily is a member of the Arum family, the Belladonna Lily, a member of the Amaryllis family and the Blackberry Lily, a member of the Iris family.

The flowers of the lily family are 3-merous, that is, all the floral parts are in threes, 3 sepals, 3 petals, 6 stamens and a 3-parted pistil with a 3-lobed stigma. In most of the flowers, except Trilliums, the sepals and petals are similar in color. The stem may arise from bulbs, rhizomes, stolons or fibrous roots. Most of our genera are herbaceous but some of the Briars, *Smilax* spp., are woody or semi-woody vines.

The genus *Allium* includes the common onion, chives and garlic. The species dotting our lawns and fields is *Allium vineale*, Field Garlic. Of fame or notoriety is *A. tricoccum*, which is found in rich beech-maple woods and is known throughout the Southern Appalachians for the Ramp Festival

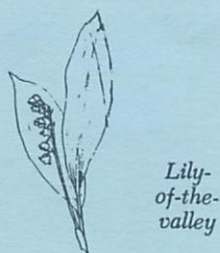


Wild
Leek

held each year. *Asparagus officinalis*, now escaped to many of our roadsides and fields, is one of the earliest vegetables. Flowers, leaves and roots of *Hemerocallis fulva*, Common Day Lily, are edible. The juice of *Aloe vera*, a house plant introduced from Africa and the Cape Verde Islands in the

Atlantic, has been used for centuries for treatment of burns and skin abrasions and today is found in skin lotions, creams and shampoos and in a salve for radiation burns.

Among the poisonous species are False Hellebore, *Veratrum viride*, occurring in wetter areas of our woods and *Urginea*, the source of red squill in rat poison. Even the very fragrant Lily-of-the-Valley is poisonous. The cultivated species, *Convallaria majalis*, is colonial and the flowers are borne



opposite the middle or upper halves of the leaves whereas in *C. montana*, Mountain Lily-of-the-Valley, the plants are scattered and the floral raceme barely reaches the lower half of the lowest leaf.

Some of the endangered or threatened members of this family in Virginia are Swamp Pink, *Helonias bullata*, Gray's Lily, *Lilium grayi*, and several Trilliums with *Trillium pusillum*, the Least Trillium, the most threatened both in Virginia and outside the state.

Some species of Liliaceae flowers that are frequently encountered on mountain wildflower walks are Indian Cucumber-root, Solomon's Seal, Solomon's Plume, Fawn Lilies, Bellworts, Devil's-bit, Fly-poison and several species of Trilliums. In mid-summer in mountain meadows and along wooded trails, the showy Canada and Turk's Cap Lilies may be conspicuous. The Tiger Lily is an escape from cultivation and is more common in our northern states.

[From a talk and slide show presented at Randolph-Macon Woman's College on March 19, 1993 by Dr. Bliss]

MEMBERSHIP DUES

As many of you know, our membership dues changed in June, 1992. The current schedule is shown below.

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Patron	\$50.00
Student	\$10.00
Sustaining	\$100.00
Life	\$400.00
Associate (Groups)	\$40.00

Associates need to designate a delegate.

Please check your mailing label for current expiration date and renew at the appropriate time. If you wish to make an additional donation, you will need to indicate if it is for the State treasury or for our Chapter. All checks should be made payable to VNPS and mailed to P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

In Memoriam

On February 15, 1993, Rev. Thomas Toler passed away. Tom was a faithful member of BRWS for many years. He owned Toler and Company and he and his son, Jon, printed our newsletters, announcements, post cards, stationery, etc., giving generous discounts or even donating the printing.

Tom was pastor at Haran Baptist Church as well as doing supply work for other churches.

He was the brother of Virginia Meloy and Bobby Toler. Our sympathy is extended to Bobby & Frieda and Virginia, Jon and the rest of his family. He will be greatly missed.

A thing [we do to our environment] is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it does otherwise.

Aldo Leopold

Letter From The President

by Frank W. Coffey

Has "Spring" finally arrived? After all the recent snow and rain, let's certainly hope so. A few days ago I was able to take a peek at the Appomattox Historical Park Nature Trail and saw a few wildflowers in bloom. There were lots of small Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, Trout lily, *Erythronium americanum*, Round-lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica americana*, Rue-anemone, *Anemone thalictroides*, Pipsissewa, *Chimaphila umbellata*, Club Moss and other plants and ferns. This little outing reminded me of the nice trips we have coming up. I hope everyone will take advantage of as many as possible.

Our chapter general membership meeting in March was well attended and again, I want to thank Bobby and Frieda Toler for the excellent presentation on "Virginia Native Orchids". I know everyone enjoyed viewing the beautiful slides and hearing the informative and interesting commentary.

As many of you know, before his retirement, Bobby did all of the Society's printing at little or no cost to the Society. The new owner, Kent Smith, operating as Valley Printers and American Lithographics, is graciously allowing Pam Wieringo, our Newsletter editor, to continue typesetting and is only charging us for negatives and plates. Thanks so much to Bobby and Kent for these services.

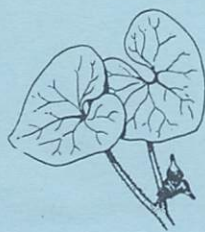
I want to take this opportunity to thank the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society for the donation you recently

made to the American Heart Association in memory of my mother. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

Please check your schedule of events for activities coming up. The Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage cosponsored by the Science Museum of Western Virginia and the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society is scheduled for April 23, 24 and 25. Also, please be getting those plants ready for our Annual Plant Sale scheduled for May 8.

In lieu of our April General Membership Meeting, Bill Hunley will be presenting a program at Virginia Western Community College on April 23. Details are on the front page of this Newsletter. However, a board meeting is scheduled for Monday night, the 26th, at the Science Museum. The board will be making final plans for some of the events already scheduled and will be adding events for the rest of the year. If you have suggestions for activities or any ideas that will contribute positively to our Society, please contact me or any board member so we may consider them.

Our membership continues to grow. Let's continue to seek new members and spread the joy of wildflowers in our area.



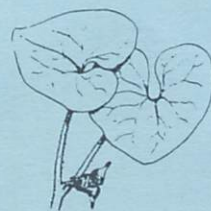
Migratory Bird Garden

Saturday, May 8, 1993, will be the first International Migratory Bird Day with events scheduled throughout the Western Hemisphere geared toward the conservation of migratory birds.

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the National Zoological Park in the Washington, DC, area are coordinating activities for not only the day but also as a long term project. A Migratory Bird Garden is being created (by private donations) which will include graphics informing zoo visitors about the value and plight of migratory birds and how property can be landscaped with native plants to provide food and cover for migrating birds. A path will lead visitors to the zoo's new Amazonia exhibit, thereby illustrating the need to conserve both temperate and tropical environments.

If you are interested in this project, contact Dan Studnicki, Development Office, National Zoological Park, (202) 673-4706.

Incidentally, the February, 1993, issue of *Smithsonian* has an article on the Amazonia exhibit. It contains 358 species of plants plus wildlife in an area which replicates the tropics.



Plant Sale And More

Rich Crites

"Plant Day" is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th, at the Community Arboretum at Virginia Western Community College. This is also the day of our Annual Wildflower Sale. Various activities are being planned in addition to our sale. There will be horticulture plants for sale and workshops put on by the Virginia Division of Forestry as well as tours of the Arboretum. A schedule is being prepared by the College. For details, contact their Division of Math and Science.

Our sale is from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.. Blue Ridge Chapter members will be able to purchase plants at 9:30.

You should have your plants at the Arboretum no later than 8:30 A.M. If you cannot bring plants, we will be needing help with labeling and pricing before the sale and helping people make selections during the sale. **Your help is needed; can we count on you?**

Permission is hereby given to reprint.
Please give credit.

Frank W. Coffey, President
(804) 332-5757

Pamela M. Wieringo, Editor
(703) 343-8596

P. O. Box 20385, Roanoke, VA 24018

Lynchburg Area Members

by Dorothy C. Bliss

Take heart, spring is coming, although the cold temperatures and two snow storms of the past month have delayed the opening of many of our early spring flowers. In my yard and woods today, April 4, I found Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, in full bloom, Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, and Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra didyma*, nearly out but Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, was still in tight bud. Many of the weedy aliens such as Bitter Cress, Dandelion, Whitlow Grass, Indian Strawberry and Purple Nettle have been conspicuous in flower for more than a month.

On Friday evening, March 19, twenty-four of our members met at Randolph-Macon Woman's College for a slide program on the lily family. This is a very large and diverse group of plants that includes many of our early spring flowers, numerous showy ornamentals and several species that are used for food or culinary products. A few are endangered and some such as Field Garlic are noxious weeds.

A recent article, *What Difference Does the Dogwood Make?*, in *National Wildlife* (April-May, 1993) is well worth reading. This deadly anthracnose disease is rapidly removing our Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*, from our native woodlands. Not only will we miss its beauty in our landscape but its disappearance as a food source may have a serious impact on our songbirds and other wildlife.

Exotics Again

An article of interest on invasives is found in *Nature Conservancy* for March-April 1993, under the Ecology Forum, *Storm Warnings*, Carole Boyles-Sprenkel discusses the concern that seeds of aggressive alien species such as Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper and others already present in the soil may now take advantage of the disturbed soil and the openings created by hurricane Andrew and prevent the native species from repopulating the Everglades National Park.

Site Registry Program

The five sites now registered with VNPS include the Trillium Slopes in Linden, the Mueller Marsh in Augusta County, Cahas Mountain (Paul James' Property) in Franklin County, Buffalo Creek Nature Area (Campbell/Bedford Counties) and the newest site, Carter's Run Wetland in Fauquier County. Sandra Elder has been chosen as our chapter's new Site Registry Chairman. If you know of any site that has some special significance for our native plants, would you bring this to the attention of Sandra or me? (Sandra Elder, Route 1, Box 982, Forest, VA 24551.)

Juglone

Some of you will remember my losing battle with juglone, the toxin given off by the Black Walnut. *Juglans nigra*. Now it seems that the enemy has reared its ugly head again. Just before Christmas in a corner formed by the house foundation and front steps, a beautiful Nandina with many clusters of red berries suddenly dropped its leaves although even now the berries still cling to the bare branches. Several Nandinas and other shrubs nearer my former walnut are thriving. A recent article suggested that in well-drained soil the poisonous effect might be minimal. I surmise that some of the toxin, unable to drain away may have been trapped in this corner. I am leaving the bare shrub for a few weeks to see if it puts forth any new leaves or growth. I'll keep you posted.

Let's have suggestions for some interesting wild flower walks in or near Lynchburg. Call me at (804) 845-5665.

Scholarships Awarded

Rich Crites

Two recipients have been selected for the VNPS Scholarship Awards.

Arlene Bell is a horticulture student specializing in landscape design options. She currently has a 4.0 G.P.A. Arlene and her family live in Copper Hill.

Carol Jackson is a science major at Virginia Western intending to transfer to Virginia Tech in the forestry program. Carol currently has a 3.9 G.P.A. She is from Roanoke and is a plant enthusiast.

Wintergreen Wildflower Symposium

The 10th Annual Spring Wildflower Symposium at Wintergreen Resort will be May 14-16 and will feature new events and speakers. The Friday evening program will feature Dr. Schoichi Kawano, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, speaking on "The Origin of Arcto Tertiary Flora — The Ancient Flora and the North American - East Asia Connection." On Saturday and Sunday, Dr. Dennis Whigham, Smithsonian Research Ecologist, will speak on several aspects of wildflower ecology.

Other programs include both Symposium "regulars" and new speakers. Among them are Dr. Ruth Beck (Ornithologist specializing in threatened and endangered species), Dr. Ted Bradley (Herbarium Curator, George Mason University), Doug Coleman, Steven Croy, Dr. Hal Horwitz, Dr. Richard Lighty, Chris Ludwig, Peter Mazzeo, Ted Scott, Ruth Smith (Ethnobotanist), Barbara Stewart, Jim Troy (Publisher of *Coltsfoot*, a journal of edible and medicinal plants), and Dr. Donna Ware.

Birds, wildflowers, ferns, a polymer clay sculpture workshop, sketching, photography, edibles & medicinals and plant history are among the offerings this year.

The Jefferson Chapter of VNPS will have volunteers teaching field identification techniques and hosting their plant sale.

The difficult part of these Symposiums is selecting which events to attend! For additional information, contact Wintergreen Resort, P. O. Box 706, Wintergreen, Virginia, 22958, (804) 325-2200, ext. 992.

In Memoriam

On March 14, 1993, Mrs. Frances A. Coffey, Mother of our Chapter President, Frank W. Coffey, passed away in Concord, Va. She was an active member of the Bethlehem United Methodist church.

Our sympathy is extended to Frank and his wife, Anne and other members of the family.