



400 Blandy Farm Lane, #2
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 www.vnps.org
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It is that range of biodiversity that we must care for—the whole thing—rather than just one or two stars. —David Attenborough, BBC Interview

Dear Native Plant Lovers,

Each year the Virginia Native Plant Society asks for your extra support for the Society or for a special project, and we thank you for the many gifts you have given. A recent edition of the *Bulletin* highlighted some of those projects. Back in 2009 our fundraising appeal aided the Virginia Natural Heritage Program in a Natural Treasures Hunt. It is time for **Natural Treasure Hunt II**, which we have selected for our 2014 campaign.

In 2009, there were about 90 plants, rare to Virginia and in some cases globally rare, that had not been seen for decades! About 20 sightings (in Natural Heritage lingo, “element occurrences”) were researched in the first Treasures Hunt. Populations were sought in the field, and of those, approximately half were found. In addition, some new locations for these species were discovered, usually near where originally sighted. Populations are now mapped very accurately using modern GPS techniques. Data such as population size and reproductive state are now available.

For **Natural Treasure Hunt II** we have set a goal of \$10,000. The estimated cost is \$500 per species for a botanist to research the species, find it, and document the work. While the total amount needed to complete the search for the remaining plants is challenging, any financial contribution VNPS members can make will boost Natural Heritage’s ability to find and protect these species. Our fund raising would make it possible for Natural Heritage to contract additional field staff charged with finding, for example, three birds orchid (*Triphora trianthophora* ssp. *trianthophora*), last seen in Botetourt County, or mountain camellia (*Stewartia ovata*), last reported in York County. Botanists could look for large-leaved grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia grandifolia*) in Bland County or Millboro leatherflower (*Clematis viticaulis*) in Bath.

Our Natural Heritage Program is an agency whose work has been nationally recognized for conserving our biological diversity. Like many Virginia institutions, it has undergone severe funding cuts over the years. As stated by Heritage staff botanist John Townsend, “Virginia’s biota is in an ever-changing state, whether it be due to natural processes or human interference. Projects such as this one help us keep on top of the biodiversity and key habitats we are attempting to protect.”

Those of us who value our wild plants and wild places can make a gift toward **Natural Treasure Hunt II** and help continue the good work. For more information or to donate online, visit our website at vnps.org.

For the VNPS Board of Directors,

Nancy Vehrs

Cathy Mayes

VNPS President

VNPS Treasurer

Conserving wild flowers & wild places

VNPS ANNUAL FUND APPEAL 2014

Please give generously to help fund Natural Treasure Hunt II!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

www.vnps.org



\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$200 \$75 \$50 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make check payable to VNPS & mail to: VNPS Natural Treasure Hunt II, 400 Blandy Farm Lane #2, Boyce VA 22620. Thank you! VNPS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.