



The Declaration
Jefferson Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS)
Winter Edition 2019

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Upcoming Member Meetings

-- Kate Asquith



Mark your calendars for our winter/spring lineup of speakers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Bldg., 1780 Earlysville Rd. just south of Woodlands Rd. intersection on north side of Charlottesville, VA. Bring a friend or two, visitors are always welcome.

Wednesday, February 13th - Celia Vuocolo: Citizen Science Project

Celia Vuocolo, the Habitat and Stewardship Specialist with Piedmont Environmental Council will discuss a recent citizen science project that focused on recording insect pollinators that visit the native landscaping at PEC headquarters. Her goal is to look at the data this fall and create some lists of pollinator plants based on what they observed. She'll share plant lists they will develop for attracting certain insect groups. 7:30 PM at Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Bldg., 1780 Earlysville Rd. The public is welcome to join us.



Wednesday, March 13th - Pat Calvert: Conservation Legislation



Pat Calvert is the Land and Water Policy & Campaigns Manager for the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN). Before joining VCN, Pat worked for many years as the Upper James River Waterkeeper. The Virginia Conservation Network just facilitated finalization of a policy paper on prospective legislation for the 2019 General Assembly focused on promoting native & controlling/managing invasive vegetation. Pat will update us on how this work has fared through the legislative session, which ought to be very busy in January and February. 7:30 PM at Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Bldg., 1780 Earlysville Rd. The public is welcome to join us!

Wednesday, April 10th – Native Plants in Riparian Zones

A representative of the Rivanna River Council will talk about several native buffer plantings and invasive species removal projects along riparian areas of the Rivanna River. 7:30 PM at Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Bldg., 1780 Earlysville Rd. The public is welcome to join us!



Wednesday, May 8th – Tom Saielli: Status of American Chestnuts



Tom Saielli is the Regional Science Coordinator for the American Chestnut Foundation. Tom oversees American Chestnut Foundation's research orchards and planting teams in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Kentucky from his office in Charlottesville. Tom will give an update on efforts to develop and return a blight-resistant, primarily native American Chestnut to forests in this region. 7:30 PM at Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Bldg., 1780 Earlysville Rd. The public is welcome to join us!

VNPS Jefferson Chapter Events

Monthly Plant Walks

Ivy Creek Natural Area from March through November



Lead by VNPS members our plant walks are usually the third Saturday of each month from March to November however, check on Facebook or emails from JeffVNPS to confirm dates and further details for each walk. The April date may be adjusted this year so that members can participate in the VMI field trip. These walks are offered jointly with Ivy Creek. 9:00 a.m. at Ivy Creek Natural Area Kiosk located at 1780 Earlysville Rd. The public is welcome to join us!

Piedmont Landscape Association (PLA) Annual Seminar (we are a sponsor at this event)

Thursday, February 7th, 8:00 am-4:45 pm - The Paramount Theater, Charlottesville

Jon Lonsdale: Woodland Treasures

Kim Eierman: Dealing with Climate Change in Your Landscape

Teri Chace: Seeing Seeds: A Journey into the World of Seedheads, Pods and Fruit

Brie Arthur: The Foodscape Revolution:

The Jefferson Chapter is a cosponsor of this event.

More information and tickets: <https://www.piedmontlandscape.org/seminar.html>

Virginia Native Plant Society Winter Workshop: “Our Changing Forests: Forest Health, Management, and Restoration”

Saturday, March 9th, 9:00 am-3:15 pm, V. Earl Dickenson Building Theater, Piedmont Virginia Community College, 444 College Drive, Charlottesville.

Once again VNPS Vice President Sally Anderson has assembled a great slate of speakers:

- Michelle Spicer: “Biodiversity Collapse and the Future of the Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome”
- Rebecca Wilson: “Telling the Story of Longleaf Pine Restoration in Virginia”
- Jean Lorber: “North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project: A Large-Scale Example of Appalachian Forest Restoration”
- Katy Barlow: “Partners and Projections for *Picea rubens*: Restoration and Recovery in Central Appalachia”



For more information and to enroll visit our site at: <https://vnps.org/vnps-winter-workshop-2019/>

The Jefferson Chapter is hosting this event—if you can help out with setup and/or takedown, please email jeffvnps@gmail.com with subject: “workshop support.”

PLEASE NOTE: This event is happening in Charlottesville instead of Richmond this year.

Using Native Plants in Your Landscaping

Monday, March 11, 6:30-8:00 pm, Crozet Library, 220 Library Avenue, Crozet.



Our Jefferson Chapter board member Beth Mizell will be discussing what native plants are, why to use them in your landscape, where they thrive, what kind of habitat they provide as well as where to procure them in our area. Copies of Piedmont Native Plants Guide will be available for purchase after the program.

Friday, March 29th - Potting Party at Fran Boninti's

2505 Holkham Drive, Charlottesville at 1:30pm.

For our chapter's Annual Native Plant Sale on Apr. 27 we're making this final push to increase sale offerings. One would think that Fran Boninti would be way too busy preparing for Historic Garden Week featuring her garden to be able to find time to host a chapter potting event. But quite generously she will have us return as usual for potting fun on Friday Mar. 29th at 1:30 pm., only a month before Historic Garden Week fills her garden with admiring visitors.

Please come to help with potting and you'll also have an opportunity to preview Fran's fantastic garden looking its best. We'll have on hand dozens of well-developed divisions and seedlings of sale favorites to nestle into pots. No experience required. Goodies expected to be potted are freshly dug Wood Poppy, Wild Ginger, Jacob's Ladder, Golden Seal, Golden Ragwort, Green and Gold, Virginia Bluebells, Asters, Spicebush, and more. An undivided tray planted with fractured bulblets of Dutchman's Breeches left over from year and a half ago should be ready for potting individually.



If you have divisions from your garden of in demand natives that would become sale size in a month please bring them for us to pot. On hand will be plenty of pots, trays, soil, and labels. If you have left over pots with 4" openings please bring them to reduce our need to order pots.

Fran and Andrew Boninti's accommodating garden mecca includes a garage with space heater to keep us comfy if weather is foul. Lots of street parking just uphill from Boninti's. Their Ivy area address is 2505 Holkham Dr. -- *Phil Stokes, Plant Sale Chairman*

Saturday, March 23rd and Sunday, March 24th - "Growing Natives in the Home Garden" two-day class

1:00-3:30 in the Education Building at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd.



Pat Willis, retired professional landscaper as well as charter member and former president of the Jefferson Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, will offer a two session mini-class on gardening with native plants. Learn how to choose the right location and create the necessary conditions to ensure that your newly acquired native plants will grow and bloom happily, and also better understand what can go wrong and how to minimize failures. The class is open to the public, but will be limited to 24 students. Preregistration is required and there is a non-refundable \$15 fee to reserve a place. (Some scholarships are available.)

Registration will close on March 6th or when 24 registrations have been received, whichever comes first. Questions, cancellations, scholarship requests, etc., email Beth Mizell at jeffvnps@gmail.com

To register and reserve a place, please provide the information below and mail it with a check for \$15 made out to Ivy Creek Foundation to Virginia Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 6281, Charlottesville, VA 22906-6281 (This class is being co-sponsored by Ivy Creek Foundation).

Please include the following information with your check:

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Zip Code _____
Phone Number _____ email _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Sunday, April 14th - Chapter Field Trip to Stokes Farm

1:30 pm (see below for address/directions)

At peak bloom time for spring ephemerals the chapter has scheduled a visit to the woodlands of the Stokes Farm in the Greenwood area of western Albemarle Co. on Sunday April 14 starting at 1:30 pm. Its 30 acres of mature woodland offers a variety of naturally occurring ephemerals and wildflowers including Wild Geranium, Mayapple, Showy Orchis, Indian Cucumber Root, Rattlesnake Plantain, and Skunk Cabbage. Indigenous shrubs in abundance include Pinxter Bloom Azaleas, Winterberry, American Hazelnut, and Witch Hazel.



We'll also see restored woodland areas once dominated by invasives now planted with hundreds of spring wildflowers including Bluebells, Trilliums, Trout Lily, Jacob's Ladder, Columbine, and Wild Blue Phlox. In over ten years most have successfully reseeded into an ever expanding area and even supplied (from pathway only) volunteer plants for our plant sale. Scores of native woodies and perennials have also been planted along the edge of a 1.4 acre pond.

Two and ½ hour walk on easily walked trails along streams, no steep or rugged sections. No restroom on site. From Charlottesville it's an easy, scenic, less than 30 min. drive on mostly interstate and Route 250. Plenty of parking for all on flat and dry field area. Carpooling option from Food Lion on 5th St. near I-64 exit leaving at 1:00 pm. *Hosted by chapter member Phil Stokes. Info: 293-4217*

Directions:

From Charlottesville take I-64 west for 11 mi. to Crozet Exit #107. Make left off of exit ramp which takes you west on Rt. 250. Continue on Rt. 250 for 4.6 mi. to stop light where you turn left onto Rt. 151 (Critzler Shop Rd.) that heads you towards Wintergreen. After .7 mi. turn left onto Route 637 (Dick Woods Road), there's a Mountain View Church sign on corner. Go .8 mi. to Stokes farm entrance with curved board fence (it's the first paved driveway you'll see on the right side of Dick Woods Rd.) – a makeshift VNPS sign will be posted at entrance. No street number, driveway for 8803 Dick Woods Rd., Afton, VA precedes it. Park cars near the cemetery visible from entrance.

Saturday, April 20th - VMI Bluffs Field Trip

If carpooling 9:00 / If driving independently 10:15 (see below for details)

The chapter will return on April 20th to see the incredibly diverse flora on the bluff rising from the Maury River at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Virginia, a pleasant nearly all interstate 59 minute drive from



Charlottesville (Google estimate). Although we'll get the military atmosphere on the access trail passing a firing range (now indoors), obstacle course, and rappelling station, there should be little activity given that it's Easter weekend. The bluffs always provide a spectacular display of spring wildflowers. On past visits we have seen masses of Trout Lilies, Spring Beauties (two species), and Toadshade Trillium. Even more interesting is the large number of relatively uncommon species such as Yellow Pimpernel, Hoary Puccoon (pictured), Paxistima, Balsam Ragwort, Twinleaf and Blue Cohosh.

The flora changes dramatically as we descend from the dry crest of the bluff down to the floodplain where Bluebells and Jacob's Ladder are prevalent. The trail takes us down a gradual and evenly sloped old roadbed. Recently built steps (equal to about an 8 story building) provide a much quicker and shorter return from the floodplain back to the top of the bluff even with stops to rest and enjoy the wildflowers and view. From the top of bluff to the parking area the trail (same trail used for both initial access and return) has a very moderate and constant slope. No rough trail surfaces with protruding rocks or roots anywhere on our route. Total distance is under 2 miles. Membership is not required, we enjoy having guests joining us on our events.

Meet for carpooling at the Food Lion parking lot on 5th Street near the I-64 exit at 9:00am (1131 5th St SW Charlottesville, VA 22902). Gather at east edge (nearest to 5th St.) of the parking lot. The trip will take roughly 1 hour in commute time each way. If not carpooling, you can meet us at the picnic shelter on Stono Lane at 10:15 (when carpoolers are expected to arrive). Bring a bag lunch and water. We'll break to eat before heading home. Restrooms located in parking area.

Directions from Food Lion (65.7 mi. to Jordan's Point Park):

- Take I-64 West
- At I-64/I-81 Interchange, go south on I-81 (I-64 shares route number with I-81 at this point), (continue for 30.5 miles)
- Just before Lexington take exit #191 from Interstate I-81 that puts you on Interstate 64 West (then continue for .8 miles)
- Take exit #55 for US 11
- Turn left (heading southbound) onto US-11 (N. Lee Hwy) towards Lexington for 1.1 miles
- Just after crossing over the river turn right onto Stono Ln. (continue .1 mi., meet at the picnic shelter parking lot on the right)
- Picnic shelter is just before crossing small bridge to Jordan's Point Park island

A MAP FOR THIS EVENT CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Saturday, April 27th – Jefferson Chapter VNPS Annual Native Plant Sale (Save the Date!)

1:00-3:00 pm Barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd.

We're off to a good start preparing for the Jefferson Chapter's Annual Native Plant Sale to be held in Ivy Creek's barn on Saturday April 27th opening at 1:00 PM. **Please note:** *the sale will be held on a Saturday and we will start setting up on Friday.* The change to Saturday was necessitated by Historic Garden Week deviating by a week from their longstanding scheduling pattern for Charlottesville area gardens. It will be a busy weekend with our sale on Saturday and Garden Week's featured Charlottesville gardens open on Sunday.

Sale preparations started with a fall potting of a bare root order of 700 mostly spring flowering ephemerals and 550 ordered plugs of later blooming perennials. Amazingly most all of these were potted/labeled at Pat



Willis's on Oct. 7th by a productive crew at a very well attended potting event featuring Pat's wonderful homemade soups. Thank you Pat, and also Ruth Iwano for finishing up label making at home.

Our fall pottings consisted of 19 species with the usual favorites including Virginia Bluebells, Mayapples, Toadshade, Wild Geranium, Alumroot, and Toothwort. Potted varieties new to the sale or absent for many years are Fire Pink, Whorled Milkweed, Shrubby St. John's Wort, Blue False Indigo, Nodding Onion, and Silver Sedge. Thanks to Beth Mizell's

green thumb we also have on hand 75 Common Milkweeds, 25 Bluestem Goldenrods, 6 Prickly Pears, 5 Redbuds, and 10 Red Twig Dogwoods. Until sale weekend our pottings are being cared for by Will Shaw and Phil Stokes.

We'll be promoting the sale with sample plants and sale flyers/lists at our display table at the PLA Seminar on Feb. 7 and at the Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium in Waynesboro on Mar. 15. Contact Phil at philipfs@embarqmail.com if you can post or distribute sale flyers.



False Blue Indigo



Hummingbird visiting Fire Pink



Virginia Bluebells

We'll need many more plants to satisfy the sale's exceptionally large customer demand. Please help by attending our upcoming potting event at Fran Boninti's on Mar. 29 starting at 1:30 pm, see above for details. Additionally we rely on member grown and contributed plants being dropped off on the weekend of the sale. On sale weekend plants can be dropped off Friday (leave behind the barn) and early Saturday. Please label at least one of each species. Please help with setting up tables, sorting, and labeling for sale that begins on Friday afternoon 3:00 – 6:00 pm and final preparations start on Saturday morning beginning at 10:30 at the Ivy Creek Natural Area's barn. -- *Phil Stokes, Plant Sale Chairman (philipfs@embarqmail.com)*

Sunday, April 28th - Native Plants in Garden Week!

Help wanted: Jefferson Chapter VNPS member, Fran Boninti, whose native plant garden will be a Garden Week stop this year would love to have some VNPS members help show people around and tell them about the plants. If you would like to help, please email her at fboninti@gmail.com



Saturday, May 18th – Betty's Native Garden

10:00 am at 127 Indigo Lane, Troy, VA 22974

This small native cottage garden has over 100 native plants. Betty will talk about why she's planting natives, what she has learned about the individual plants and what critters her plants have attracted.

Directions to 127 Indigo Lane:

- From Charlottesville take I64 east towards Richmond to exit 129 (Keswick/Boyd Tavern)
- Turn right onto Black Cat Rd
- Turn left onto US-250
- Turn right onto Payne's Mill Road
- Turn left onto North Boston Road
- Turn right onto Larkspur Road (Sycamore Landing)
- Turn right onto Indigo Lane (bright blue house on the left)



The roads are narrow so please do not park across from driveways. Carpooling is recommended

A New Plant for Albemarle County: *Eastern Wahoo*

--*Mary Lee Epps*

Much of our farm was once part of Gale Hill Plantation. The main house burned in 1930, but an old family graveyard, stone-lined ice pit and the stone foundation of an old barn remain as well as a series of terraces, originally the site of the family's gardens and orchard, that stair-step down to the floodplain of the North Fork of the Rivanna River. Although well above the floodplain, both the top of the knoll and the descending terraces are rich mesic woods populated mainly by Black Walnut, Hackberry, Spicebush and Carolina Buckthorn.



Euonymus atropurpureus flower in late May

Unfortunately there are also plenty of invasives, especially Ailanthus, Privet and Multiflora Rose. A couple of years ago my husband was clearing underbrush and invasives from one of the terraces when he noticed an unusual small tree that he didn't recognize. Later he showed it to me and our daughter, Mary Jane, who teaches botany at Mary Baldwin University. I was baffled, but Mary Jane looked at it and declared it appeared to be some sort of *Euonymus*. But it certainly was neither *Euonymus fortunei*, Winter Creeper, nor *Euonymus elatus*, Burning Bush, two popular ornamentals that are serious invasives in our area. Nor was it our native *Euonymus americanus*, Strawberry-bush, which

is common in our woods but normally reduced to small sprouts by heavy deer browsing. Happily we now have the *Flora of Virginia* and Mary Jane was able to quickly key it out as *Euonymus atropurpureus*, the Eastern Wahoo.

She next consulted the on-line Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora (<http://www.vaplantatlas.org/>) to check its distribution. The Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora described the Eastern Wahoo tree as "very infrequent in the Piedmont" and there was no dot for Albemarle County, meaning there was no sample from Albemarle County in any of the major state herbaria. Mary Jane promptly corrected that, collecting a sample, pressing it, and sending it to Gary Fleming at the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage.



Euonymus atropurpureus seed capsule in early winter it

Euonymus atropurpureus can be either a shrub or small tree. (Ours has a single stem and is definitely a tree.) Like other *Euonymus* species has small oval, opposite leaves and twigs that are often green. The flowers are in cymes and are maroon or brownish-purple and the fruit is a 4-lobed capsule that starts green, then turns a lovely rosy pink and finally dries to a tan color.



Euonymus atropurpureus flowers and leaves

The genus *Euonymus* is in the Celastraceae or Bittersweet family. In Virginia the family is represented by only two additional genera besides *Euonymus*. The genus *Celastrus* includes both the invasive Oriental Bittersweet and the increasingly uncommon rare native Bittersweet, while the genus *Paxistima* is represented by one extremely rare native species. It's an odd family at least in our part of Virginia. Except for Strawberry-bush it comprises mainly a few highly invasive species, a few seldom found natives, and not much else.

Photos by: Mary Lee Epps

What is that Smell? *Skunk Cabbage: Under-appreciated Denizens of Cold*

--Elizabeth Mizell



Skunk Cabbage flowers emerging at Choate Sanctuary, Saw Mill River Audubon, NY. Photo by Elizabeth Mizell

Choate. The children, who were very happy to be outside on a sunny winter day, ran wild with joy climbing trees and scrambling over rocks; burning off three days' worth of energy by my best estimates. Needless to say, most of the birds steered clear of our group, so I instead found some plants to share with my friends who now have a new appreciation for Skunk Cabbage. Who knew? Sharing this cool thing with them got me to wanting to know more about Skunk Cabbage too.

Symplocarpus foetidus or Skunk Cabbage is common in Virginia, documented in almost all counties. It is an obligate wetland plant loving mucky wet soils found in seeps, saturated floodplains, bogs, fens, and even along roadsides. The

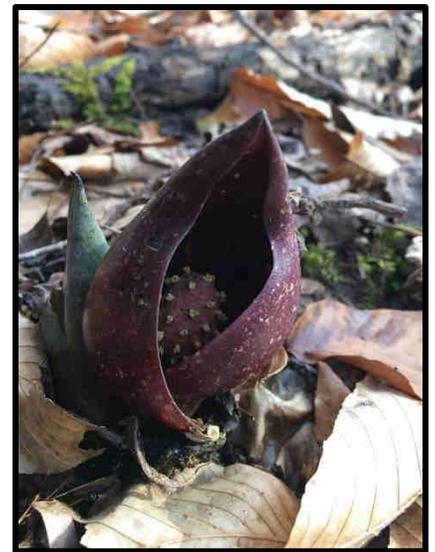


Skunk Cabbage growing in a northeast Indiana fen unfurling new leaves. Photo by Elizabeth Mizell

A few qualities make this plant unique meaning it has a really neat approach to making a living in this world. First, it can tolerate flowering in the winter because of the flower's ability to generate its own heat, melting through snow and ice. Huh? Yeah, plant physiology magic. Heat production is also likely related to pollination. Second, Skunk Cabbage stinks to high heaven to attract just the right pollinators like flies, beetles, or bees; hence, the species name *foetidus* meaning "that has an ill smell".

Skunk Cabbage braves the cold to peek its leathery reddish, greenish spathe and fascinating flowers through the muck and wet in late winter. As a plant lover, I take great delight in spotting these stinky gems because I have been waiting ALL WINTER for flowers and that's a mighty long time. These are generally the first native plants to say hello to the new year.

I spotted some at Choate Sanctuary, Saw Mill River Audubon located in New York last year. Joining friends and their three children, we embarked on a winter woodpecker hike in hopes of seeing all six species of woodpeckers inhabiting



Skunk Cabbage flower at Preddy Creek. You can see the spadix peeking out of the spathe to the left. The spadix is where all the small flowers are located. Photo by Tana Herndon

plant is widely distributed throughout eastern U.S being one of two species in its genus, *Symplocarpus*. The other species is in northeastern Asia. Skunk Cabbage was Virginia Native Plant Society Wildflower of the Year for 2009. There is a great detailed description on our website: <https://vnps.org/wildflowers-of-the-year/2009-skunk-cabbage-symplocarpus-foetidus/>

A few qualities make this plant unique meaning it has a really neat approach to making a living in this world. First, it can tolerate flowering in the winter because of the flower's ability to generate its own heat, melting through snow and ice. Huh? Yeah, plant

Lastly, large bright green leaves emerge after flowering. Do not be fooled by the word cabbage into thinking this plant is good in your soup and salad lunch. These cabbage-like leaves are full of a substance called calcium



Skunk Cabbage after leaf emergence. This is when you can most easily find these plants. Photo by Mary Lee Epps.

oxalate which is produced to deter herbivory by bugging up the mouth of the unfortunate soul nibbling its leaves. Hopefully, the Skunk Cabbage's successful defense will keep it alive for another day and said soul will have learned a valuable lesson.

The best way to find Skunk Cabbage is to scout it out the spring/summer before, looking for those large bright green leaves. Our Jefferson Chapter President, Mary Lee Epps, shares this tip on finding this sometimes elusive flower, "The best way to see the

blooms is to first go in the summertime.

Then the masses of

large green leaves really stand out. Note EXACTLY where the leaves grow and then return the next winter to see the flowers." Locally, you can check out Skunk Cabbage at Ivy Creek Natural Area, Preddy Creek in Northern Albemarle County, and along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Love.

Now layer up and get out for that late-winter hike. It is good for the body, clears the mind, and fills the soul with goodness.



Skunk Cabbage braving the snow. Photo by Mary Lee Epps

Want to know more? Here are my helpful references:

A Grammatical Dictionary of Botanical Latin (online)

Wildflowers & Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains & Piedmont by Timothy P. Spira

Uemura S., et al., 1993. Heat Production and Cross Pollination of the Asian Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus renifolius* (Aracea). *American Journal of Botany*, vol. 80, no. 6, 1993, pp. 635-640., www.jstor.org/stable/2445433

Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora, *Symplocarpus foetidus* (L.) Salisbury ex W.P. C. Barton (online)

Little Firstlings: *Hepatica*

--Betty Truax

Every year I wonder if I will see a *Hepatica* bloom or a Skunk Cabbage bloom first. Those precious early blooms make me happy, particularly in a landscape so barren of color. Generally, Skunk Cabbage blooms first but every once in a while I find a single lovely *Hepatica* as early as December.



Tiny little December Hepatica bloom

John Burroughs, the famous 19th century American naturalist, described the feeling best when he said:

“There are many things left for May, but nothing fairer, if as fair, as the first flower, the hepatica. I find I have never admired the little firstling half enough. When at the maturity of its charms, it is certainly the gem of the woods.”

Little Firstling...such a lovely way to describe an early *Hepatica*.

There are two species of *Hepatica* in Virginia, *H. americana* whose leaves have three rounded lobes and *H.*



H. americana whose leaves have three rounded lobes

acutiloba whose leaves have three pointed lobes. *H. americana* is known commonly as Roundleaf or Round-lobed Hepatica. Round-lobed Liverleaf is another common name because it is thought that the winter leaves are the color of liver as well as having a liver-like shape. It is found in all but a half a dozen counties in Virginia. *H. acutiloba* is known commonly as Sharp-lobed Liverwort, Sharp-lobed Liverleaf. In Virginia it is found mostly in the southern mountain region. *H. americana* is slightly more drought tolerant than *H. acutiloba*.

Both of our *Hepaticas* have a lot in common. They reach heights of 3-6 inches. They have attractive 5-20 white, blue and sometimes pink sepals (look like petals). They are early bloomers, usually seen blooming between March and April. *Hepaticas* have hairy stalks that support a single ½ to 1 inch bloom. The “hair” helps to protect the plant from cold temperatures and drying winds. Flowers only open on sunny warm days when small native bees and other tiny pollinators may be looking for a meal of pollen; hepatica does not produce nectar. Once blooming is done, new bright green foliage appears.



H. acutiloba whose leaves have three sharp lobes



Pink double Hepatica with hairy stems

Hepatica grows in woodlands, in part shade under deciduous trees. In a garden, well-drained, loamy, rocky, limestone soil will make it happy, particularly if a thin layer of decaying leaves are added. No need to deadhead the leaves they will disappear when new leaves appear. The clumping plants spread by reseeding but can be divided in the fall. Pests and disease are rarely problems.

All the woodland path is broken
By warm tints along the way,
And the low and sunny slope
Is alive with sudden hope
When there comes the silent token
Of an April day,—Blue hepatica!
--Dora Read Goodale

Photos: Betty Truax



Interesting Events being held by Other Organizations

Quarry Gardens

Fridays in February from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

N.B Rachel Floyd, the Center for Urban Habitat's native landscape designer and manager, will be back in action at the Quarry Gardens each Friday in February from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.—and would welcome assistance from knowledgeable volunteers. She'll be working on early spring clean-up of the native plant galleries as well as seeding and installing new plants. It's a chance to learn from Rachel and enjoy the company of other native habitat stewards. Gardens are at 1643 Salem Road in Schuyler; directions may be found on the website at <http://quarrygardensatschuyler.org> . Bring hand pruners, trowels, gloves, and a snack—and dress for the weather. Water and restrooms are available in the Visitor Center. Work will proceed in light showers, but not heavy rain or snow. If you plan to be there, please notify Bernice Thieblot at bernice.thieblot@gmail.com

Piedmont Landscape Association (PLA) 36th Annual Seminar (*Jeff. Chapter will be represented at a table*)

Thursday, February 7th (8am-5pm)

- Jon Lonsdale: Woodland Treasures
- Kim Eierman: Dealing with Climate Change in Your Landscape
- Teri Chace: Seeing Seeds: A Journey into the World of Seedheads, Pods and Fruit
- Brie Arthur: The Foodscape Revolution

Thoughtful design and management of landscapes is more important than ever as concerns of climate, water quality and invasive plants increase. Brie will discuss how to create a foodscape using native plants mixed with favorite seasonal food crops. The best organic products are featured and easy, earth friendly maintenance strategies are highlighted. Learn about native edible plants and the pollinators they attract that aid in ecological restoration. Get inspired to see the potential every landscape offers by transforming them into purposeful spaces that embrace solutions to modern day landscape practices.

More information can be found at: <https://www.piedmontlandscape.org/seminar.html>

Woods and Wildlife Conference:

February 23rd, Culpepper and Roanoke

\$45/person, \$80/couple. Agendas and registration available in mid-December

<https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/landownerprograms/workshops/woodsandwildlife.html>
(copy link and paste into your browser)

Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium

March 15th, 8:00am-4:15 pm, Best Western Inn and Conference Center, 109 Apple Tree Lane, Waynesboro

Speakers include Tony Dove: “Ironclad Native Trees and Shrubs” and Vic Piatt: “Meet Mt Cuba Center” as well as Pam Beck and Brie Arthur. For more information, copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.waynesboro.va.us/971/Shenandoah-Valley-Plant-Symposium>

Ivy Creek Farm Celebration 2019

Saturday April 13th, 9:00a.m. – 12p.m.

Join the fun at Ivy Creek. The public is encouraged to participate at Ivy Creek Natural Area located at 1780 Earlysville Rd. To learn more about this event and other great events happening at Ivy Creek visit their website at: <http://ivycreekfoundation.org/calendar/event/402/>

Ivy Talks: Nancy Adamson: Pollinators!

March 17, 2:00-3:00 pm

Education Building, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville

Piedmont Master Gardeners and Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards Plant Sale

May 4th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, the tent at Stonefield (rain or shine)

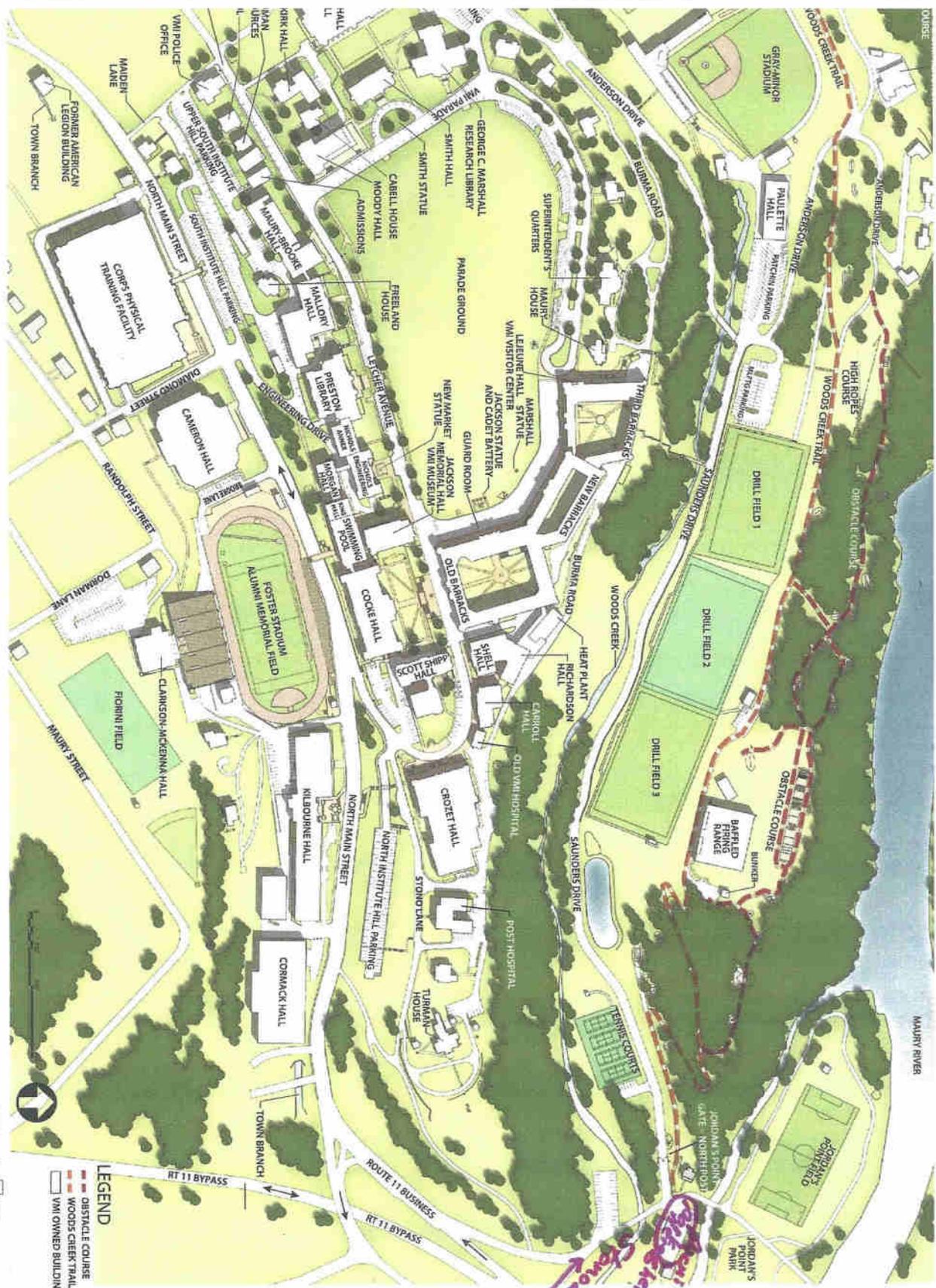
Sale includes annual and perennial plants for pollinators, herbs, veggies, shrubs, and a large selection of native plants, houseplants, and trees. There will also be a help desk for your gardening questions, a tool and knife sharpener, and a green elephant sale. Media contact: Josie Taylor, (434) 242-3497, idesigner07@comcast.net

Virginia Department of Forestry’s online tree store is taking orders now: Virginia Trees for Virginia landowners: copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.buyvatrees.com>

Volunteer(s) Needed: We are looking for someone to take over editing our newsletter (mostly just putting together information provided by members). We’re also looking for someone who would be willing to take over our Facebook page. If you are a member and have any interest or questions about either (or both) of these positions please email: jeffvnps@gmail.com and put “newsletter editor” in the subject line.

Jefferson Chapter Newsletter

Submissions of articles, events, and other information of interest to the chapter are welcome. Feel free to submit them to: jeffvnps@gmail.com . Put “Newsletter Editor” in the subject line please.



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