

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

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Upcoming Member Meetings



Mark your calendars for our fall/winter lineup of speakers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30-9:00 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, October 9th, Steve Kruger: Medicinal Plants and Other Forest Products

Steve Kruger is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech. He will speak about his work using surveys and qualitative interviews to study the Appalachian non-timber forest products, particularly the trade in native medicinal plants. Before coming to Virginia Tech, Steve worked as a public folklorist in North Carolina. He helped produce the Blue Ridge Music Trails Project and documented cultural traditions in the western mountains and along the southeastern coast. The public is welcome to join us.



Wednesday, November 13th – Melissa Hey: Drivers of Plant-Insect Interaction



Melissa Hey is a PhD candidate in the University of Virginia's Department of Environmental Science. She has been working with Dr. Kyle Haynes' research team at Blandy Experimental Farm since 2015. Her research interests include invasion ecology and plant-insect interactions. Her undergraduate thesis at the College of William and Mary focused on how intraspecific competition and herbivory affected growth and secondary chemical defenses in common milkweed. Common milkweed serves as a significant food source for the monarch butterfly, and her research sought to delve into drivers of plant-insect interactions. Free; all are welcome.

Wednesday, December 11th – Dr. Mary Jane Epps: Tiger Swallowtails and Flame Azalea Pollination

Dr. Mary Jane Epps will join us to discuss tiger swallowtails pollinating flame azalea. Mary Jane is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Mary Baldwin University, and is the daughter of our chapter president Mary Lee Epps. Mary Jane earned her undergraduate degree at Duke University and a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona. Free; all are welcome.



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 Facebook or Jefferson Chapter VNPS emails to confirm dates and further details for each walk. 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!

Native Plant Walk Saturday, September 21st, 9:00-11:00am led by Phil Stokes

Join Phil Stokes to see the fall blooming goldenrods and asters as well as the showy fruits of spicebush and Jack-in-the pulpit. We may also see chinquapin and hazelnut fruits. Co-sponsored by the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Native Plant Walk, Saturday, October 12th 9:00-11:00am led by Mary Jane Epps

Join Mary Jane Epps, Assistant Biology Professor at Mary Baldwin University and Jefferson Chapter member, to hunt for mushrooms and other fungi and learn about how they interact with plants and animals to shape the ecology of our forests. Fall is the peak mushroom season in our area so there should be lots to discover. Free; all are welcome. Co-sponsored by the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Meet by the kiosk near the parking lot at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd., Charlottesville.

(Note this is the second Saturday of the month rather than our usual third Saturday for walks)

Native Plant Walk, Saturday, November 16th 9:00-11:00am led by Nancy Weiss

Jefferson Chapter member Nancy Weiss will lead a forest ecology walk. This will be an opportunity to learn more about how various tree, shrub, and herbaceous species in Ivy Creek's forests have changed over time. See how to read the influence of man and imagine how the forest looked 80 years ago. Free; all are welcome. Co-sponsored by the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Meet by the kiosk near the parking lot at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd., Charlottesville.

Plant Sale Potting Party at Pat Willis's Home & Greenhouse [Help Needed!](#)

Sunday, October 13th 10:00 AM -12:00 PM, 1611 Hamilton Rd., Louisa, VA 23093

By: Phil Stokes, Plant Sale Chairman

Preparations for the chapter's Annual Native Plant Sale in April begin on Sunday Oct. 13 with our potting of hundreds of native bare roots and plugs of customer favorites. At Pat Willis's wonderfully accommodating home and greenhouse in the beautiful Louisa countryside we'll have the perfect place rain or shine to pot and enjoy the company of friends new and old.

Depending on supplier availability we'll be potting bare root ephemerals including Virginia bluebell, wild geranium, May apple, wild ginger, shooting stars, toothwort, and wild blue phlox. From lessons learned in previous years, we'll be potting plug species that should have better survival through the winter in pots. Some promising new additions will be Culver's root, downy skullcap, and Virginia mountain mint.

This year we will carefully instruct (with diagrams) our potters on potting technique required for the particular species they're potting. All the plants, soil, pots, trays, and labels will be provided. Please do bring your extra pots with 4" openings to reduce our future need to purchase pots.

Potting starts 10:00. With a good turnout all the plants will be potted by lunchtime when we'll be rewarded with Pat's delectable soups. You may bring a dish to share too. Drinks will be provided. Please come, the more the merrier!

Directions: ph. 540 967-0208 From I-64 Zion Crossroad Exit (Route 15) go north on Route 15 for 3 ½ mi. Turn right onto Jack Jouett Rd. Go 1.5 miles (Jack Jouett Rd. veers to the right at a T-intersection) Make a left onto Hamilton Rd. Go 1.6 mi., immediately after you cross the steel truss bridge Pat's steep uphill driveway is on your left, mailbox numbered 1611 at driveway.

Virginia Native Plant Society 2019 Annual Meeting



Virginia Native Plant Society 2019 Annual Meeting: “Celebrate the Diversity of the Piedmont” Friday September 27-Sunday September 29 in Front Royal Virginia

Members of the VNPS Piedmont Chapter are looking forward to hosting our 2019 Annual Meeting. We will meet at the Holiday Inn Blue Ridge Shadows, about five miles north of Front Royal, allowing us to showcase the diversity of our region. The environmental resources of our largely rural area have attracted a rich scientific community. Just south of Front Royal lies the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, while to the north is the Blandy Experimental Farm, which includes the State Arboretum of Virginia. Experts passionate about understanding our natural world will guide our walks. They will also lead art classes and photography workshops and give presentations on such topics as edible plants, nectar plants, and propagation. Plan now to join us in September and Celebrate the Diversity of the Piedmont.

The Conference opens Friday evening with a presentation by Dr. T'ai Roulston, Curator of the State Arboretum of Virginia and Research Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia. Dr. Roulston's primary research area is plant-pollinator interactions, which he studies through field and laboratory approaches.

Saturday evening's keynote speaker is Dr. Woody Bousquet, Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology at Shenandoah University and President of the Virginia Academy of Science. Dr. Bousquet's research and expertise include environmental education, science education, environmental protection at the community level, and Appalachian geography.

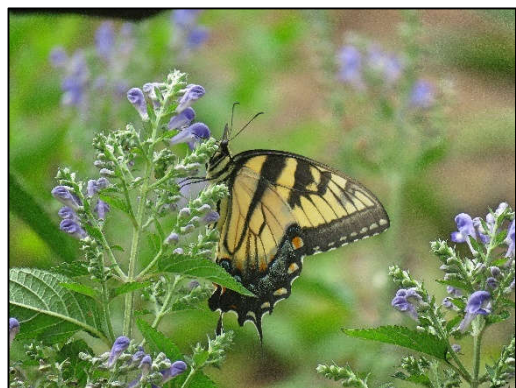
For more information about the meeting and a link to on-line registration go to <https://vnps.org/annual-meeting-2019-welcome/>.

Member Contributions

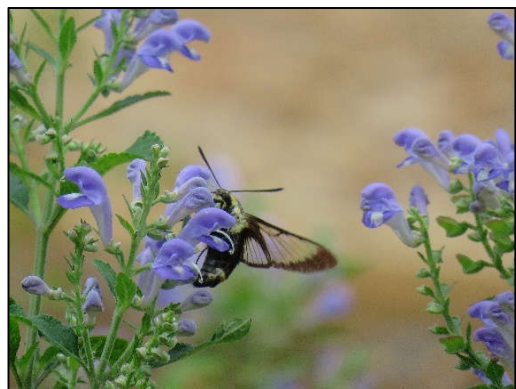
Growing Plants for Others

By: Betty Truax

There are many reasons to plant gardens. You might want to grow food for your family (and, if growing tomatoes or zucchini, for your friends and neighbors as well). You might want to surround yourself with beauty. You might need exercise or a place for some quiet time. You might want to be reminded of places and/or people. I've enjoyed gardening for many reasons over the years but now I choose plants that attract native critters.



Skullcap and Butterfly



Skullcap Clearwing



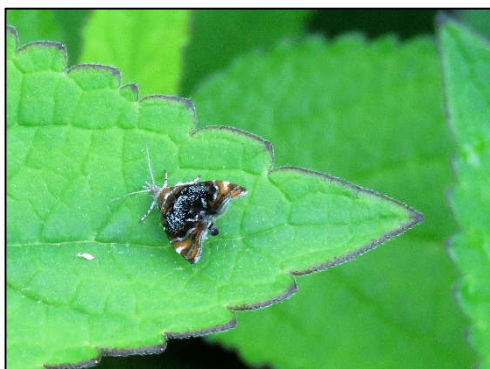
Skullcap Damage

I love when I see leaf damage (someone got a meal). I love seeing the many types of native bees. I love seeing birds interact with my plants. I've learned to not fear the wasps or the spiders and I've learned to look for caterpillars and egg sacs. The variety of critters that visit my gardens now has grown expeditiously from the days of gardens full of non-natives such as peonies, iris and daylilies. Gardening for native critters brings me joy.

Scutellaria incana (hoary skullcap or downy skullcap) flowers are the most beautiful shade of lavender blue. In my garden it grows in mostly sun with some afternoon shade. After three years it is popping up in a couple of places that I didn't plant it, but I'm mostly okay with plants deciding where they want to live. This plant attracts many critters seeking its pollen or nectar. I've seen bumblebees, wasps, hummingbirds, clearwing moths, bee flies, butterflies and skippers enjoying their visit to the very pretty flowers.

But before all the beautiful flowers, before the visitors, *S. incana* are just clumps of plants about 2 feet tall with lots of grayish green leaves. The leaves get eaten pretty aggressively every spring and into summer. I asked a friend who owns a native plant nursery about it and she said she wasn't sure what was chewing on the leaves but she couldn't sell the plant because it looks so bad when eaten. I looked under the leaves and never saw anything crawling around. I was baffled.

And then during a garden tour in May of this year, I was standing in the middle of the patch of *S. incana* and when I moved, I saw several dozen very tiny moths flutter up from the plant. I was so excited I wanted to stop the tour right then and there and do some research. Once the tour was over, I was out taking pictures of the triangular shaped moths.



Skullcap Moth

Thanks to the size and shape of the moths it didn't take long to figure out they were *Prochoreutis inflatella* commonly called skullcap skeletonizer moths. Reading up on the moths, I found out that the larvae of *P. inflatella* feed only on *Scutellaria* species.

I don't mind the munched-on leaves. While they are looking a bit rough, I have other plants that are in their glory to distract from that part of my garden. Meanwhile, come mid-summer I am rewarded with those stunning flowers and the great number of critters that visit.

So once again I learn that there is a critter that is completely dependent on a single species of plant for its future generations. Will I save *P. inflatella* for generations to come? Probably not, but those that visit my gardens are glad I plant *S. incana* in my gardens and so am I.

Paw Paws And The Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly

By: Mary Lee Epps

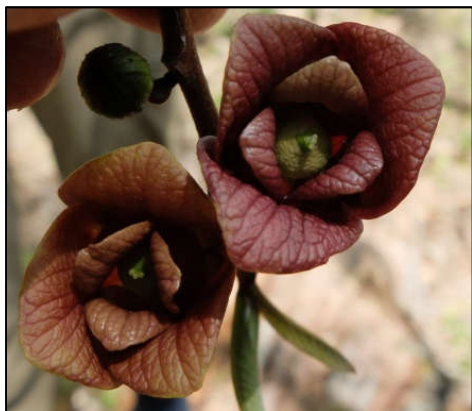
Pawpaw's have a great deal to offer—handsome flowers in the spring, delicious and highly nutritious fruit in the early fall, plus they are the only host plant of one of our most beautiful butterflies, the zebra swallowtail.

Our pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is the northernmost member of the mostly tropical Annonaceae (or custard-apple) family. It is an understory tree, growing up to 40 feet tall. It has alternate, simple, unlobed leaves that are quite large (6 inches to 15 inches long by 2 to 6 inches wide), slightly broader toward the tip and tapering at the base. The flowers are a handsome rusty-brown color. It has traditionally been happiest growing in moist, well-drained and fertile soil, but this may be changing. According to the *Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora*, in recent years the species has spread to dry-mesic and dry areas and increased in abundance. Although the reasons are unclear, both the suppression of fire and unpalatability to deer may play roles.



Pawpaw leaves and fruit

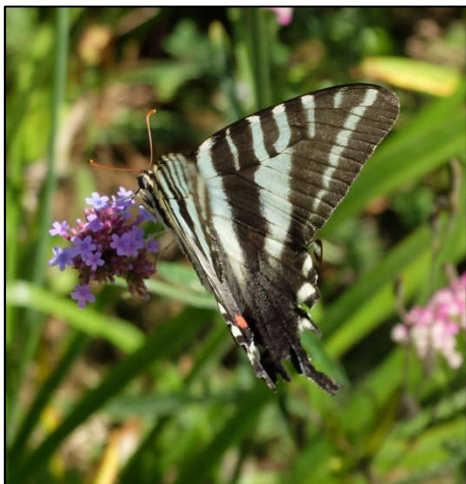
Crushed leaves give off a strong, unpleasant odor, a likely deterrent to many insect herbivores and leaf-browsing mammals. The flowers have a somewhat similar if less pungent smell. Not surprisingly given the color and odor, the main pollinators are flies and beetles, although apparently the flowers are not particularly attractive even to these insects as poor pollination has been an obstacle to efforts to grow pawpaws commercially.



Pawpaw flowers



Pawpaw fruit: whole, cut open and seed



Zebra swallowtail nectaring on Brazilian verbena

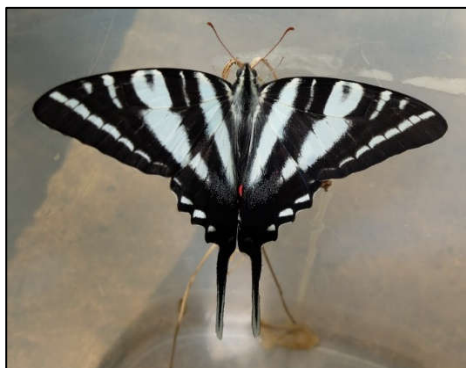
The pawpaw fruit is the largest edible fruit native to the U.S. and can weigh up to a pound although 5 to 7 ounces is more typical. When ripe, the flesh is soft and custard-like, with a flavor that has been described as a blend of banana, mango, and pineapple. In addition, when compared with apples, oranges, and bananas, the fruits are relatively high in protein and fat, with good amounts of Vitamins C, riboflavin, and niacin, and of calcium, potassium, magnesium and several other useful minerals. The pulp can be mashed and substituted for bananas in cooked recipes but I have never bothered. They are delicious straight off the tree and that way it's easy to deal with the several large seeds scattered through the flesh.

While there have been efforts to grow the fruit commercially, they have been largely unsuccessful. The fruits are easily bruised and don't store well so that they are difficult to transport and market.

Pollination problems resulting in relatively low fruit set are another problem. Also, the trees tend to sucker so that trees growing in the wild may produce a grove of clones that are not self-fertile. Happily, on our farm we have several clusters of trees that bear well and each fall we keep a watch on our most productive trees for ripening fruit.

One interesting question is how the seeds are spread. Although the trees are quite common in our area and in fact grow in 26 States, ranging from New York to Florida and west to Texas and Nebraska, the seeds are too large to be ingested by our native mammals except perhaps black bear. While smaller mammals may carry the fruit a short distance before eating it, the range must be quite limited. One hypothesis is that the seeds were originally distributed by now extinct fruit-eating megafauna such as mastodons and giant ground sloths. It seems likely that since humans arrived in the new world, they have been the main dispersers of seed.

One of the most attractive features of pawpaw is that it is host plant to the caterpillar of the zebra swallowtail butterfly (*Protographium marcellus*, formerly *Eurytides marcellus*). The zebra swallowtail is beautiful with dramatic black and white stripes enhanced by long swallowtails and touches of red. In the Deep South there are a few other species of *Asimina* that can host the caterpillar but in most of Virginia and in states farther north, *Asimina triloba* is the only host. If you see a zebra swallowtail around our part of Virginia, you can be sure that there are pawpaws nearby.



Zebra swallowtail newly emerged from chrysalis

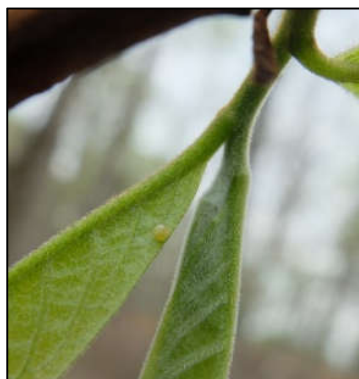
Compounds called acetogenins in the leaves and leaf twigs are repellent to most insects, birds and browsing mammals. Zebra swallowtail caterpillars, by ingesting these compounds, make themselves unpalatable to many predators.

In mid-April a couple of years ago my daughter, Mary Jane, who spends a great deal of time in the woods observing nature, was watching a zebra swallowtail butterfly flitting about a pawpaw tree that was just leafing out. She soon realized that the butterfly was laying eggs on the newly emerging leaves, but it didn't simply choose a likely leaf and deposit a mass of eggs. Instead it lay only one egg on a given leaf. (My first thought was that this was a way to assure that some eggs escaped predators, but apparently the caterpillars can be cannibalistic so that scattering the eggs helps protect the caterpillars from each other.)

Mary Jane also observed that the butterfly visited the base of the tree, where it laid an egg an inch or two above the leaf litter. This surprised her so that she checked another population of pawpaws and found individual eggs at the bases of several of these trees in addition to those on leaves.

Returning to the tree two weeks later, Mary Jane found several young caterpillars, and collected one to rear in a jar and observe. The caterpillar matured successfully and made a chrysalis. At that point Mary Jane went off to UVA's Mountain Lake Biological Station to do research and left me to babysit the chrysalis, which in early June hatched into a beautiful zebra swallowtail butterfly.

Zebra swallowtails prefer to lay their eggs on newly emerging leaves since these are higher in acetogenins, but this would seem to limit the butterflies to a single generation born in the spring. Yet they overwinter in chrysalis form suggesting a late-season crop of caterpillars is necessary for the long-term survival of the species. It turns out that there are at least two moths, the pawpaw sphinx moth, *Dolba hyloeus*, and the asimina webworm moth, *Omphalocera munroeii*, whose caterpillars also feed on pawpaw and these may do enough damage to the tree to encourage new leaf growth, providing young leaves for eggs laid later in the season.



Zebra swallowtail egg on young leaf



2nd instar with shed skin of 1st instar



Zebra swallowtail chrysalis

Want to know more? Here are my helpful references:

1. "Pawpaw Description and Nutritional Information", by Snake C. Jones and Desmond R. Layne, Kentucky State University Extension Service, <https://kysu.edu/academics/cafsss/pawpaw/pawpaw-description-and-nutritional-information/>
2. "The Pawpaw, a Forgotten North American Fruit Tree", by Jose I. Hormaza, Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, <https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014-72-1-the-pawpaw-a-forgotten-north-american-fruit-tree.pdf>
3. "Connections: The Pawpaw Tree and the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly" by Laura Seale, <http://blueridgediscoveryproject.blogspot.com/2011/08/connections-pawpaw-tree-and-zebra.html>
4. "Featured Creatures: Zebra Swallowtail" by Donald W. Hall and Jerry F. Butler, Entomology and Nematology Dept., University of Florida, https://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/zebra_swallowtail.htm
5. "Eurytides Marcellus", by Davila, L. 2001, Animal Diversity Web. https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Eurytides_marcellus/
6. *Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora*, <http://www.vaplantatlas.org/index.php?do=plant&plant=748&search=Search>
7. *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, by David L. Wagner, Princeton Field Guides, Princeton University Press, 2005.
8. *Butterflies through Binoculars: the East*, by Jeffrey Glassberg, Oxford University Press, 1999.
9. *Peterson Field Guide to Moths*, by David Beadle and Seabrooke Leckie, Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2012.

Reigniting a Partnership: Plant Piedmont Natives

By: Elizabeth Mizell, Co-chair Plant Piedmont Natives

In 2012, a group of native plant enthusiasts and advocates joined together to launch Plant Piedmont Natives (PPN), a partnership dedicated to promoting the use of plants native to Virginia in our yards, parks, public spaces, and landscaping. The early efforts of this group generated some tools you may use today, such as the Piedmont Native Plants Database (<https://www.albemarle.org/nativeplants/>) and *Piedmont Native Plants: A guide for landscapes and gardens*. PPN is one of seven regional campaigns across Virginia that are part of the Virginia Native Plant Marketing Partnership. PPN covers Fauquier, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Madison, Orange, Greene, Albemarle, Louisa, Fluvanna, Nelson, and Buckingham Counties.



On July 17, 2019, PPN reconvened bringing together stakeholders from the 11-county region for a day of thoughtful discussion and action planning. The Jefferson Chapter of VNPS and Piedmont Environmental Council hosted the event. Carol Heiser, Habitat Education Coordinator for VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Virginia Witmer, Outreach Coordinator for Coastal Zone Management Program Office at DEQ, generously provided additional financial support and expertise. UVA Institute for Engagement and Negotiation staff, Kristina Weaver and Mike Foreman, assisted PPN in planning and facilitating this meeting. Their skillful meeting facilitation helped us to develop four Working Groups and identify 10 new short-term goals to reignite the work of PPN.

We were blown away by the interest and participation of the 38 meeting attendees and inspired by the enthusiasm and ideas each one brought with them. PPN is for anyone who works with natives, whether you are a property owner, private consultant or designer, nursery operator, or local government. The goal is to go beyond making people aware of native plants, but to change their behavior to ask for and use native plants consistently.

Celia Vuocolo, Wildlife Habitat & Stewardship Specialist with Piedmont Environmental Council, and Elizabeth (Beth) Mizell, Vice President VNPS Jefferson Chapter, are Co-chairs for Plant Piedmont Natives. We are building a grassroots partner initiative that includes motivated citizens and volunteers, partner organizations, and local governments to promote native plants. Jefferson Chapter VNPS is a strong supporter of this partnership providing both financial assistance and volunteer time towards its success.

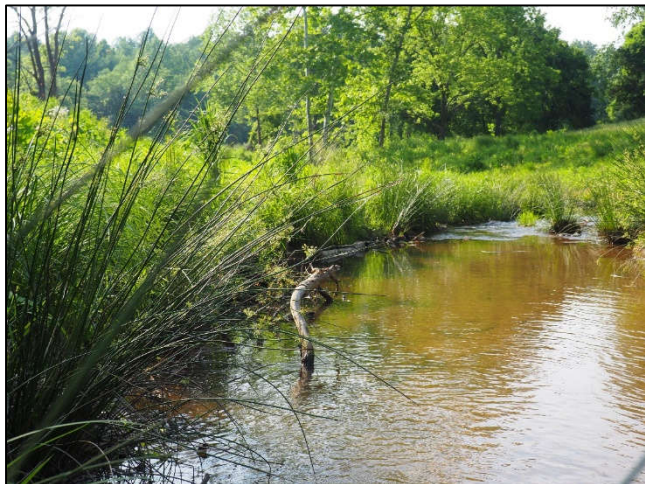


Follow Plant Piedmont Natives on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/PiedmontNatives/> or check out our webpage <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/plant-piedmont-natives>.

To learn more about PPN or how you can help, please contact Beth by email at eamizell@gmail.com.

Nature's Improvisation

By: Annemarie Abbondanzo



What adjective comes to mind when you look at the scenery in the picture to the right? Whether you see an overgrown area or a complex and vibrant habitat largely depends on expectation.

I spent the better part of the summer monitoring the growth of native grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees in riparian buffers that were planted as a part of stream restoration projects to see if the vegetation meets the regulatory and design objectives. What I learned is that expectation plays a big role in how different people react to the evolution of these projects.

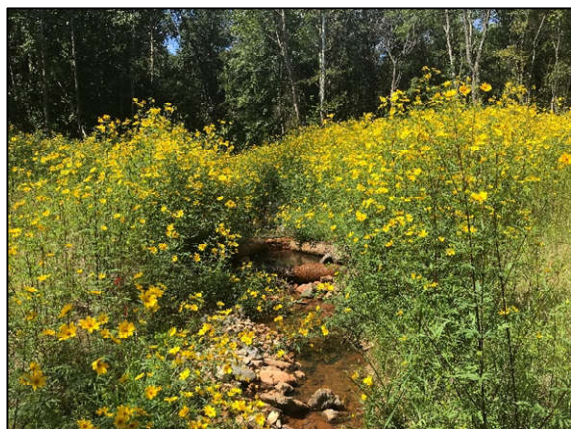
Projects begin with a structured configuration for the planting area with perfectly spaced rows of species placed a precise number of feet on center. On planting day, the diversity is perfectly accounted for, the plants look tidy and the design is coherent. The expectation is that the planting plan will come to life exactly as it is shown on paper. Plugs will fill in the allotted two feet on center. This expectation doesn't account for the role of nature. Nature improvises with the conditions and constraints of the environment and while these improvisations sometimes deviate from the plan there is much to be grateful for and enjoy about the resilient and improvisational spirit of nature.

Stream restoration is geared towards transforming a degraded system into one with a greater abundance of benefits and functions. Restoration of riparian buffers is one of the most important steps in the recovery of a stream to a more natural condition. Among many benefits, buffers provide shade, stabilization and organic materials as food to the local ecosystem. The aim of restoration is to create a self-sustaining natural system. This emphasis on minimal human intervention gives these projects a unique character. When looking at a restoration planting it can take a trained eye to see resiliency and complexity rather than an overgrown, weedy area. With a trained eye and a little curiosity, we can not only start to appreciate the picture nature is painting but also infer important messages.

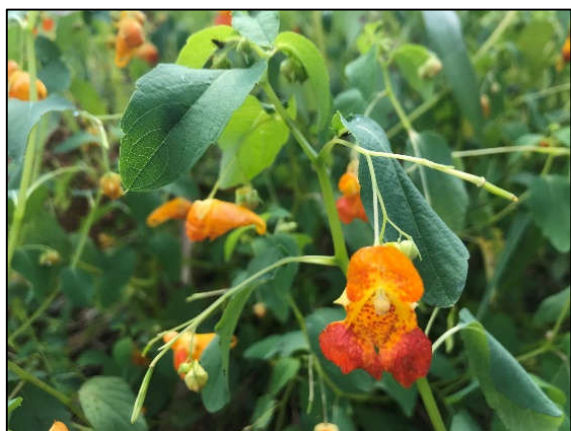


River Run on planting day

The River Run Stream Restoration Project was planted with livestakes (silky dogwood, silky willow, ninebark, and elderberry), and herbaceous plugs (soft rush, cardinal flower, boneset, and Joe pye weed) and seeded (common milkweed, blazing star, wild bergamot, and oxeye sunflower). The first photo was taken directly after planting. Species are organized as individuals and the design is coherent with clear division of the stream bank, buffer and bench planting zones.



River Run 11 days post planting



Orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)



Woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*)

In just a matter of days the site completely transformed with wild spontaneity to become a sea of oxeye sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) as far as the eye could see. No one anticipated witnessing such a major deviation from the plan. But the quick emergence and early dominance of this plant delivered a clear message that the site is still in recovery with soils that are likely poor to average. Nature pivoted in a way that will help stabilize the area and begin attracting pollinators and providing overwinter coverage for insects while building soil health. Next spring, I expect to see more diverse blooms and leafing out on robust livestock. In the meantime, I'm grateful for nature's unscripted behavior and ability to identify a successional species that will help to reduce limiting conditions.

The Arey Farm site was planted three years ago with native trees (Shumard oak, ninebark, sycamore, willow oak, tulip poplar, persimmon, and silky dogwood), and herbaceous plugs (soft rush, fringed sedge, fox sedge, river oats and swamp milkweed). Once planted, the trees did not take off beyond a scattering of sycamores. Likely due to limiting soil and water conditions. Rather than meet the site with an unbending expectation, I was happy to be greeted by large stands of orange jewel weed, blue cardinal flower, and beebalm in addition flowering native sedges, grasses, and rushes as far as the eye could see.

From this summer I've learned how important it is to appreciate the role of nature and look for the message. Rather than outright fight deviations from the planting plan, find out what the deviations mean for the site conditions and the resiliency of the selected species, or plant stock. Before replanting the same species because of die off emulate nature and improvise with a better adapted choice. In a world where management and design have become necessary to meet today's environmental challenges and regulations, I'm grateful we still have the teachings of nature to inform decisions. In an ever changing and surprising environment I'm learning to follow the clues. I've turned my attention to layering, balancing spatial composition, amending soils, and planting for succession. As the summer monitoring season comes to a close, I look forward to many more plan deviations that result in improving and improving along with others.

Interesting Events being held by Other Organizations

Nature Conservancy Volunteer Workdays

Carpooling available from Charlottesville

9/25: **Invasive Control & Trail Maintenance** @ Fortune's Cove Preserve (Lovingston, VA): Day of Caring

10/10: **Trail Clearing & Blazing** @ Warm Springs Mountain Preserve (Warm Springs, VA)

Overnight accommodations at the Homestead at a friends and family rate is available.

10/17: **Invasive Control with James River Park System** @ Richmond, VA

Carpooling available from Charlottesville

Now-November: Hand Address Envelopes (home or Charlottesville Office)

Details: **Jennifer Dalke**, Volunteer Program Manager jdalke@tnc.org 540-335-1302 (mobile) 434-951-0572 (office)

Louis Ginter Botanical Garden Fall Plant Fest

September 13th, 9:00am-5:00 pm and September 14th, 9:00a m-3:00 pm, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond

Some vendors with native plants <https://www.lewisginter.org/event/fall-plant-sale/>

Shrubs for Your Landscape

Piedmont Master Gardeners Garden Basics Free Workshop

September 21st, 2:00-4:00 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1118 Preston Avenue, Charlottesville

Reserve your place by emailing info@piedmontmastergardeners.org

Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello

September 21st, Monticello (tickets on sale now)

https://www.heritageharvestfestival.com/?utm_source=ET&utm_medium=email&utm_content=hhfbutton&utm_campaign=052319hhf

Sustainable Landscaping Workshop

September 29th, 1:00-3:00 pm, Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-landscaping-workshop-tickets-65953248943>

Natural Areas Conference

October 8th-10th, Pittsburgh Sheraton, Pittsburgh, PA

https://www.naturalareas.org/current_conference_2019.php

Blue Ridge PRISM Invasive Workshops

October 9th, Charlottesville; October 29th, Nellysford; November 5th, Boyce

Topics covered include:

- Identifying invasive plants in spring and summer
- Which invasives you can best kill now
- Which invasives you should treat later
- Best spring-time and summer-time practices for each invasive
- Using manual & mechanical control methods
- Methods for controlling invasives with herbicides
- Choosing the right herbicide and equipment, and using it properly
- Planning a work schedule with best timings for multiple plants

There will also be an opportunity to identify your plants, so bring samples of your mystery plants and we'll identify them! Each session includes classroom and outdoor instruction (weather permitting) and discussion.

<http://blueridgeprism.org>

Fall Forest Stroll at James Madison's Montpelier

October 12 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.– Montpelier Station, VA

Explore beyond the Mansion and grounds to the woods of Montpelier and consider society's dependence on this resource then and now. The walk-through President Madison's beloved woodlands will be led by **Virginia Master Naturalists** through a working woodland showcasing various forest & habitat tending methods. \$10/person <https://www.montpelier.org/events/seasonal-forest-strolls>

Invasive Plant Identification and Treatment Methods Class (Open Doors)

October 17th, 6:30-8:30 pm and November 14th, 6:30-8:30 pm

<https://www.digitalsignup.com/ClassDetail.aspx?code=MaOivjgEVzXxJXCucAZnquxbHAivZBqLKlxpthLpCLVjPkzKPWMxYL11kAPI6QD4&SoftwareID=%2bev50Ymj5avTv1JYXVtHRQ%3d%3d>

Central Shenandoah Valley Garden Symposium: Going Native

October 19th, 9:00 am

Speakers & Topics:

Doug Tallamy – “A Chickadees Guide to Gardening (An old title with a new talk)”

Heather Holm – “What's the Buzz About Native Bees”

Ian Caton – “Four Seasons of Native Blooms”

Kevin Conrad – “Conserving Native Ornamental Plants for the Landscape”

<https://csvmga.org/event/central-shenandoah-valley-garden-symposium-going-native-3/>

21st Annual Virginia Biological Farming Conference

January 11-13th, 2020, the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke

16th Annual Woods and Wildlife Conference

February 29 (tentative) – Culpeper, VA

New topics every year!

“One-stop shop” for woodland owners wanting to better manage their land and citizen scientists desiring to expand their applied knowledge base!

Details and registration forthcoming: <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/index.html>

Workdays at Quarry Gardens

<http://quarrygardensatschuyler.org>

Rachel Floyd, the Center for Urban Habitat's native landscape designer and manager, is at the Quarry Gardens each Friday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.—and would welcome assistance from knowledgeable volunteers. 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. 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.

Help Needed Studying the Bradford (Callery) pear

<http://southernforesthealth.net/plants/callery-pear/callery-pear-population-genetics-study>

Jefferson Chapter Newsletter

Submissions of articles, events, and other information of interest to the chapter are welcome. Feel free to submit them to: annemarie@ecosystems-services.us. Put “Newsletter Submission” in the subject line, please.