



Twinleaf News

Jefferson Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS)

Spring Edition 2016

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Upcoming Member Meetings

-- by Ruth Douglas

Mark your calendars for our 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 unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend or two, visitors are welcome.

March 9th - Nathan Miller: "Landscaping with Native Plants"

7:30 pm, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville

Nathan Miller will feature trees, shrubs, and vines in the home landscape. Nate started Simply Sustainable Landscaping, which focuses on native, edible and historical landscapes, in 2012. He is currently an instructor of Horticulture at PVCC and teaches classes through JMU's Lifelong Learning Institute. From spring to fall he arranges field trips to see native plants in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.



April 13th - Tim McCoy: "An Introduction to the Non-Honey Bee Pollinators, Their Biology and Behavior"

7:30 pm, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville



Topics will include how pesticide misuse can harm pollinators, and how attendees can take simple steps to help these valuable insects thrive. Tim McCoy is a Research Specialist in the Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs where he develops pesticide safety educational materials for commercial applicators, and the general public. He has been a member of VT Entomology department for 13 years, where he has worked on a diverse range of pest insects. He is currently focusing on the fascinating topic of native pollinators to deliver pesticide safety and general biology information to the broadest possible audiences.

May 11th – Save the Date (speaker and topic TBD)

7:30 pm, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville
Meetings are free and open to all in the Education building.

Annual Native Plant Sale Status

-- by Phil Stokes

For the chapter's Annual Native Plant Sale to be held on Sunday May 1 at 1:00 PM we've faced some challenges. The supplier of our bare root plants didn't reliably ship our order and the weekend of our sale has become crowded with other gardening events. However with the nearly 1,000 plants potted last fall we're well on our way to matching last year's production. But to be fully stocked we'll need both a successful potting event at Fran's on April 2 (1:30 PM) and donations of member prepared plants.

As experience has taught us there's no certainty that all that all of our fall pottings will successfully root. Planting too deep, too shallow, potting soil dampness, and critter damage can take a high toll on our plants. With our fall potted plants cared for over the winter by several different members the risk of loss should be less. It's encouraging to see that as of March 2 we have some of our spring beauties already leafing out.



By sale date I anticipate chapter members will have potted over 1,500 native plants. Potted in large quantities will be spring favorites Virginia bluebells, trillium, Mayapple, wild ginger, Dutchman's breeches, wild geranium, bloodroot, trout lily, and others. Several flats each of summer and fall flowering pollinator attractors including milkweed, beebalm, coneflowers, liatris, asters, and goldenrods were prepared at our fall potting. Much appreciated are the member donated plants on sale weekend that expand our selection and quantities.

We've already been promoting the sale starting with sample plants and flyers at our display table at the PLA Seminar back on Feb. 17 and the Woods & Wildlife Conference on Feb. 20. Our final push will be a display table at Tufton Farm's Open House the day before our sale. Contact Phil at philipfs@embarqmail.com if you can help post or distribute sale flyers.

After nearly 20 years without increasing our perennial prices from \$ 4.00 each we'll be raising our perennial price to \$ 4.50 for the usual sized 4" square pot perennial and \$ 7.00 for woody in containers with larger than 4" openings. VNPS members qualify for a 10 % discount off of the posted prices and this discount is also offered to new members with a completed and paid application.

As usual the sale will be held at Ivy Creek Natural Area's Barn. On sale weekend plants and volunteers are needed. Plants (species labeled) can be dropped off behind the barn in the shade starting on Friday. Setting up tables, sorting, and labeling for sale begins on Sat. afternoon 3:00 – 6:00 pm and final preparations start on Sun. morning beginning at 10:30.

Here's a Peek of Plants We Plan to Sell (Partial Listing)

Sunday: May 1, 2016 (1:00 – 3:00 PM)
Ivy Creek Natural Area, Barn
1780 Earlysville Rd., Charlottesville

Plants listed have been potted up by the Jefferson Chapter members from propagated plants (not collected from wild areas). Many additional species beyond those listed will be available at the sale. Quantities limited, arrive early for best selection. Visit our facebook page (www.facebook.com/132951300094979) for descriptions / photos of many of the plants below.

Spring Ephemeral (Woodland) Wildflowers \$ 4.50

- Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)
- Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
- Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
- Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*)
- Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
- Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
- Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*)
- Celandine Poppy (*Stylophrum diphyllum*)
- Toadshade Trillium (*Trillium sessile*)



Groundcovers \$ 4.50

- Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
- White Wood Aster (*Aster divaricatus* renamed *Eurybia divaricata*)
- Golden Star or Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*)
- Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*)
- Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)
- Moss Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)



Full Season (Full and Partial Sun) Wildflowers \$ 4.50

- Plantain-leaved Pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*)
- Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Large Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*)
- Oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)
- Scarlet Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)
- Broad-leaved Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)
- Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*)



Trees and Shrubs \$ 7.00

- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Upcoming Fieldtrips, Plant Walks and other Chapter Events

-- By Mary Lee Epps

March 19th (Sat.) Native Plant Walk: Ivy Creek Natural Area

9:00 am, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville

Tim Williams will lead the first Ivy Creek Foundation plant walk of the season focusing on spring blooms of both trees and flowers. Good for all ages. Co-sponsored by the Ivy Creek Foundation. Meet by the kiosk near the parking lot.



April 2nd (Sat.) Potting Party!

1:30pm - 2505 Holkham Dr, Charlottesville (there's always plenty of street parking)

Chapter members please come to Fran Boninti's for our always enjoyable and productive potting of sale plants. This is also a perfect time to walk through Fran's spectacular garden, especially the spring ephemerals.



April 10th (Sun.) Field Trip: Key West Bottomland

1:30 p.m. - The bottomland along the Rivanna River at Key West has been recognized by Albemarle's Natural Heritage Committee as one of the rich botanical sites in the county. This is private land not open to the public, but we will be going as the guests of Ruth Douglas, who will also be leading the walk. It is a well-defined path on mostly level ground and therefore a relatively easy walk of about 2 miles roundtrip. A few parts of the trail would be muddy and possibly slippery if it's wet. What we will see blooming will depend to some extent on how early our spring is, but possibilities include early saxifrage, two different types of toothwort, Virginia

bluebells, walking fern, Dutchman's breeches, wood anemone, trout lily, and much more. Directions are at <http://www.keywestclub.org/directions> .

April 16th (Sat.) Native Plant Walk: Ivy Creek Natural Area

9:00 am, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville

Ruth Douglas will lead a plant walk focusing on woodland wildflowers of spring. Good for all ages. Cosponsored by the Ivy Creek Foundation. Meet by the kiosk near the parking lot.

May 1st (Sun.) Jefferson Chapter VNPS Annual Native Plant Sale!



1:00-3:00 pm, the Barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area

1780 Earlysville Road, Charlottesville, VA (The Ivy Creek Foundation Yard Sale also being held near the barn)

Be sure to arrive early for this very popular event for the best selections! Choose from over 50 species of native perennials, trees, shrubs, wetland plants. There will be a large selection of spring wildflowers and groundcovers including trillium, Virginia bluebells, Dutchman's breeches, wild geranium, Mayapple, Jacob's ladder, wild blue phlox, heuchera, spring beauty, and wild ginger. Later season species include turtlehead, purple coneflower, blue flag iris, scarlet bee balm, oxeye sunflower, goldenrod, asters, and more. Most Perennials will be \$ 4.50 each; most trees and shrubs \$7 each. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds support Jefferson Chapter's educational and conservation efforts.

Plants and volunteers needed: on Saturday 3:00-6:00 pm and on Sunday morning beginning at 10:30.

May 7th (Sat.) Field Trip: Dripping Rock on the Blue Ridge Parkway

Meet at 8:30 a.m. to carpool from the Food Lion on 5th St. close to the I-64 Exit (#120), Charlottesville, or meet us at the Dripping Rock parking area at milepost 9.6 at 9:45 a.m.



(Carpooling is recommended as the blacktopped parking lane is only about 3 cars long-- after which it will be necessary to park on the road shoulder.)

Bring a snack or lunch and water. This will be a 3-4 mile walk with gentle slopes and relatively easy walking. The trail we will be taking is at a relatively high elevation through moist woods over



greenstone along the Blue Ridge and thus has somewhat different plants from those we see on the more acidic Piedmont soils around Charlottesville. With

luck we may find blooming large-flowered bellwort, tassel rue, marsh marigold and a wide assortment of violets including green violet, downy yellow violet, birdfoot violet, marsh violet, and others.

May 21st (Sat.) Native Plant Walk: Ivy Creek Natural Area

9:00 am, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd., Charlottesville

Phil Stokes will lead a plant walk focusing on restoration of areas that have had invasive plants cleared. Good for all ages. Cosponsored by the Ivy Creek Foundation. Meet by the kiosk near the parking lot.

June 5th (Sun.) Field Trip: The Farm at Sunnyside

Sunday afternoon. Sam Quinn, Conservation Manager at The Farm at Sunnyside and our May 2015 speaker, will lead our fieldtrip. The Farm at Sunnyside goes beyond the organic label to take a more quantitative approach toward measuring the interactions between agriculture and wild species. Sam will show us how The Farm builds and maintains healthy populations of pollinators, crop pest predators and other important wildlife by managing the property as habitat. You can either meet us at the Farm at Sunnyside, 27 Sweetwater Ln, Washington, VA 2274, at 2:00 p.m. or carpool with us from Charlottesville. (Mapquest has the best directions to the farm: Mapquest web site is <http://www.mapquest.com/>) To carpool, meet at 12:30 in front of the Food Lion at 1740 Timberwood Blvd., in the strip mall just southeast of the intersection of Proffit Road and Rt. 29. The tour will take roughly 2 - 2 ½ hours.

Volunteer to Help Blue Ridge PRISM Control Exotic Invasives

-- By Kate Asquith

Are you eagle-eyed when it comes to spotting exotic invasives like Japanese stiltgrass, oriental bittersweet, autumn olive, or wavyleaf grass? Blue Ridge PRISM could use your help volunteering with a new program.



As you may remember from Rod Walker's excellent presentation at our January meeting, the Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is a new nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the negative impact of nonnative invasive plants in ten counties along the northern Blue Ridge Mountain region of Virginia.

PRISM offers free consultations to landowners to point out and identify the invasives on their properties, and to explain how to control them and how to restore the land. To do so, it needs volunteers to help. PRISM is looking for volunteers from our Chapter to help landowners identify the invasives on their properties. If you're interested, please contact Mary Lee Epps (mse5e@virginia.edu)



Seminars, Forums, and Workshops

33rd Annual Piedmont Landscape Association (PLA) Seminar Summary

-- By Betty Truax

Our chapter is one of the sponsors of this seminar to encourage the PLA to select speakers who promote native plants and habitats.

- This year Claudia West spoke of bringing back wild landscapes including dense plantings. She talked extensively about varying root lengths in landscapes to prevent competition. She spoke of healthier plant communities, stating that no plant ever wants to grow in a straight row like little soldiers, they want to grow with other species; they are social.
- Dennis VanEngelsdorp spoke of bees. He said they have 5 eyes and when they look out at the world it's like us looking at a bank of tvs at Best Buy with all of them on the same channel. He mentioned that local honey is the sweetener with the smallest carbon footprint. He told us that honeybees are suffering from varroa mites that carry a lethal virus.
- Tony Avent promoted native plant cultivars enticing us with a beautiful slide show of over 100 plants.
- Finally Claudia West spoke again concentrating on selecting plant communities based on what grows well together in the wild. She said no two communities are exactly alike but in order to alter those communities it is important to know the plants very well. She strongly believes in very compact landscapes to include small groundcover plants instead of mulch to cover the soil.

Once again the seminar was worth attending and I learned new things. My favorite quote of the day came from Dennis VanEngelsdorp who quoted H.L. Mencken "For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong."

Habitat Conservation Forum: Practices that Sustain Virginia's Wildlife and Native Plant Communities Summary

-- By Betty Truax

On February 24, 2016 several Jefferson chapter members attended the Habitat Conservation Forum in Culpeper, VA. Doug Tallamy, PhD, Professor (Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware) and author presented "A Chickadee's Guide to Creating a Living Landscape" in which he argued that lawns are sterile environments that are starving birds. Baby birds (even those that eat seeds as adults) need caterpillars and caterpillars need native plants in order to survive. Think of the plants in landscapes as bird feeders.

Nancy Adamson, PhD, Pollinator Conservation Specialist (Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) explained that 1/3 of our food supply depends on pollinators. Native bees although better pollinators in general are not manageable since they often don't live in hives. An exception is bumble bees are sometimes managed for use in greenhouses. In fact, leaving hollow stemmed plants in your landscape until March gives some native bees a place to overwinter. Many are ground dwellers (often liking sandy soils) so consider leaving some open, non-mulched spaces in your landscapes.

Claudia West, MLA, Ecological Sales Manager (North Creek Nurseries) and author talked about "living ground covers" explaining that covering the soil with plants helps to protect it. Diversity in plant communities is important since plants are the "foundations of life and salad bars for insects".

Rod Simmons, Natural Resource Specialist, Plant Ecologist (Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, City of Alexandria VA) explained that protecting our native habitats is much easier and cheaper than trying to restore them.

And finally a representative from the Conservation Management Institute, Virginia Tech spoke about Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan. They are working on making this information available for specific areas and we will let you know when the information is available. What an interesting and informative forum! Can't wait until the next one is announced.

Upcoming VNPS Workshop – Sponsored Students

– by Andrew Harriman

The Jefferson Chapter board decided to sponsor two horticulture students from Piedmont Virginia Community College to attend the March 12th VNPS Workshop at University of Richmond. Selected by Michael Lachance, horticulture instructor at PVCC and Nelson County Extension Agent. These are two thoughtful students with an interest in native plants: Vanessa Armstrong who is studying herbal medicines and Katalin Magyar works for Michael Shapps in the local wine business. Presenting at this event will be Gary Krupnick, Ph.D., Botanist and head of the Plant Conservation Unit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, who will talk about A Natural History Approach to Protecting



Pollinators. Kal Ivanov, Ph.D., Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Virginia Museum of Natural History will talk about The Astonishing World of Ant-Plant Symbioses. Paulette W. Royt, Ph.D., Microbiologist, retired from the Biology Department at George Mason University will talk about Plant Roots and Their Fungal Partners. And finally, Dennis Whigham, Ph.D., Senior Botanist at the Smithsonian Ecological Research Center and Founding Director of the North American Orchid Conservation Center will talk about Native Orchids: Interactions with Fungi and Challenges for Orchid Conservation.

With topics like those, these students should learn quite a few interesting facts!

Other Events of Interest

March 12th (Sat.): Annual VNPS Workshop: Plants and Their Friends: Exploring Partnerships Above and Below Ground

9:45 am-4 pm, Jepson Hall, University of Richmond

Mycorrhiza, myrmecochory, pollinators, and orchid-fungus relationships are key topics:

- Gary Krupnick: A Natural History Approach to Protecting Pollinators
- Kal Ivanov: The Astonishing World of Ant-plant Symbioses
- Paulette W. Royt: Plant Roots and Their Fungal Partners
- Dennis Whigham: Native Orchids: Interactions with Fungi and Challenges for Orchid Conservation

For more information go to <http://vnps.org/winter-workshop-2016/>

2016 Spring Garden Lecture Series hosted by Piedmont Master Gardeners

Piedmont Master Gardeners, in cooperation with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, invite you to the 2016 Spring Garden Lecture Series, starting in March! The lectures are on the following Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm in Room A at the Albemarle County Office Building on 5th Street Extended, Charlottesville, VA, just south of I-64:

- March 17, 2016 Brent Heath, "Bulbs as Companion Plants"
- March 24, 2016, Eric Walter, "Composting Fundamentals for the Home Gardener"
- March 31, 2016, Cole Burrell, "Beauty, Integrity, & Resilience: Can a Garden have Everything?"
- April 14, 2016, Craig LeHoullier, "Epic Tomatoes for Southeastern Gardens"



The lectures are \$ 8 per lecture and open to the public. For details and to purchase tickets online go to:

<http://piedmontmastergardeners.org/events/>

March 13th (Sun.) Ivy Talks: Plant Survey and Herbarium

2:00 pm, Education Building, Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Rd, Charlottesville VA

Tana Herndon will discuss the Ivy Creek Plant Survey, which both confirms Ivy Creek's remarkable plant diversity and also has recorded the presence of a number of quite unusual plants for our area of the Piedmont. Then Tim Williams will introduce the Ivy Creek Herbarium. Learn what a herbarium is, how it is constructed and its value as a physical record of Ivy Creek's plant diversity. Be sure to come early, as seating is limited.

March 18th (Fri.) Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium

8 am-4 pm. Join Waynesboro Parks and Recreation for the 2016 Shenandoah Plant Symposium. It's a great way to get a jump on Spring and draw some inspiration for the planting season ahead. Renowned speakers will discuss all things 'Garden' and offer up a little something for everyone from the novice home gardener to the experienced horticulturist. The proceeds will supplement the horticulture program's budget to provide more bloom for the community. For more information:

http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event;jsessionid=99A1ECCBB78F45CEB455A4F30478560D.worker_register?llr=nzdak9dab&oeidk=a07ebehmk67973f19bb

March 24th (Thurs.) Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards – FREE Class

1-3pm. Crozet Library, 2020 Library Avenue, Crozet

Tree Basics for Homeowners—a FREE class presented by certified tree stewards on selecting, planting and caring for trees on your property. Registration recommended. Call 434-974-7683

April 20th (Wed.) Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards – FREE Class

10am – noon. Northside Library, 705 West Rio Road, Charlottesville

Tree Basics for Homeowners—a FREE class presented by certified tree stewards on pruning principles & tools with a demonstration on trees. Registration recommended. Call 434-974-7683



April 23rd (Sat.) Fluvanna Master Gardeners: Planting for Pollinators

9am-12pm, Pleasant Grove Butterfly Garden

Join Carol Heiser of the VADGIF as she shares her knowledge of native plants and attracting pollinators. Participate in the spring planting of native plants. Help install nests for native bees and puddling stations for butterflies. Free, but pre-registration is encouraged: email Claire Lowande at clowande@fluvannacounty.org

April 30th (Sat.) Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants Spring Open House

10:00am to 2:00pm / GPS Address: 1293 Tufton Farm, Charlottesville, VA.

Pollinators are the theme in talks by Southern Exposure Seed Exchange's Ira Wallace and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's Director of Horticulture, Grace Chapman. Bees and other native pollinators are very important for the productivity of your vegetable garden; in "Attracting Pollinators to Your Vegetable Garden," Ira will share tried-and-true practices that welcome pollinators and other beneficial insects to your vegetable garden for an abundant harvest. Then, learn how to create a native landscape that will attract and support our pollinators in "Native Plants for Pollinators;" in this talk, Grace will discuss our area's most common pollinators as well as landscape design tips and her favorite native plants to use in your home garden. Enjoy guided garden tours and ask the knowledgeable staff your gardening questions.

May 7th (Sat.) Fluvanna Master Naturalists: Buzzing with Fun at Old Farm Day

9am-4pm, Pleasant Grove Farm Garden

Tour the butterfly garden and learn why creating pollinator-friendly gardens is important to support our native pollinators. Get plant suggestions and tips for attracting native butterflies and other pollinators into your home garden. Fun activities for kids. Free, but pre-registration is encouraged: email Claire Lowande at clowande@fluvannacounty.org



Save the date!!! September 9-11: The Virginia Native Plant Society 2016 Annual Meeting

Blacksburg. We will publish more information as we receive it but in the interim details can be found in the VNPS Sempervirens at <http://vnps.org/download/sempervirens/spring%20sv%20color.pdf>

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.