



# Claytonia

John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Happy New Year!

January-February 2024

[vnps.org/johnclayton](https://vnps.org/johnclayton)

Striped wintergreen  
(*Chimaphila maculata*)

Photo by Seig Kopinitz

Lucile Kossodo

President

757-565-0769

Cortney Will,  
Secretary

Cathy Flanagan  
Treasurer

Emilia Godwin  
Communications

Adrienne Frank  
Plant Sale

Jennifer Nagle-Myers  
Stonehouse Garden

Libbey Oliver  
Nature Camp

## Where Native Plant Society Volunteers Fit In the Invasive Plant Picture

**Thursday, January 18th at 6:45 PM on ZOOM**

***Please join us promptly as the speaker  
will be conducting a survey***

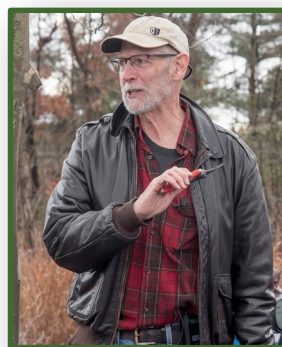
**About our Speaker:** Tim Maywalt has a master's degree in forestry from the School of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University.

Upon retirement, Tim took Tree Steward training in Arlington, VA to become an amateur arborist, and became knowledgeable of the threat invasive plants pose to trees. He did invasives treatment work in Northern VA, and upon moving to Charlottesville, joined the Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards in 2011.

As a volunteer on the grounds crew at Monticello, Tim removed English Ivy from over 2000 trees and then expanded to a wider range of invasive plant treatment, mainly in public parks and open spaces.

**About Blue Ridge PRISM** (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, Inc) is a volunteer driven, non-profit organization that is dedicated to reducing the negative impact of invasive plants in the northern Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

**For More Information** about the history of the organization, its mission, and the services it provides, visit <https://blueridgeprism.org/>

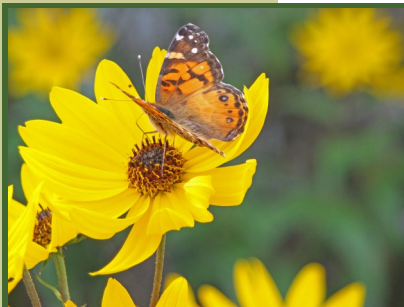


Tim Maywalt joined the Blue Ridge PRISM at its inception and he trains on invasive plant identification and treatment for both PRISM and Tree Stewards.

**Your Thoughts:** The newsletter team would like to hear from members about their own experiences with invasive plants. Do you have a particular problem species in your yard or neighborhood? Have your efforts to educate people about invasives had any success? Please send your thoughts to [jccvnps2@gmail.com](mailto:jccvnps2@gmail.com)



VIRGINIA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY



## Recipe for Success:

# *The Making of a Native Plant Sale*

Saturday, May 4 , 2024

*By Emilia Godwin*

**W**ith the Winter Solstice behind us, we know that the slowly lengthening daytime brings us closer to spring. Even more exciting , it brings us a day closer to our Native Plant Sale!

While May 4th is still months away, the plant sale takes significant preparation and the assistance of many hands and minds to make it a success.

As the Plant Sale Committee is starting to plan, building on what worked last year and improving on what fell short, we realize that we need more volunteers working smart, to improve our processes throughout all aspects of the sale.

It became clear to us, that adding the capable assistance of two coordinators would make a huge difference. We are looking for a **Volunteer Coordinator** and a **Plant Donations Coordinator**.

As part of the Plant Sale Committee, they will coordinate with the Plant Sale Chair and will also work closely with volunteers and members.

If you know anyone who would enjoy coordinating events and working with people, please send them our way. For this role, we are looking for someone who can help us elevate the volunteer efforts and the overall success of the sale.as the **Volunteer Coordinator**.

Also, if you have a good knowledge of native plants, and are eager for us to

expand our access to larger plants, we would like you to become **our Plant Donations Coordinator**.

In this role, you would work with members throughout the spring encouraging the gardeners among our members to grow and nourish native plants and make them available for our sale. To get in touch Contact Emilia Godwin

[jccvnps2@gmail.com](mailto:jccvnps2@gmail.com).

And...as our plans get finalized, as we schedule potting parties, as we complete the plants list, we will be communicating *with you*.

Visit our Facebook page and our Website for updates:

[www.vnps.org/johnclayton](http://www.vnps.org/johnclayton)

Our chapter could not orchestrate the plant sale year after year without our volunteers. Thank you to all those who signed up this year!

As we prepare to bring a larger selection of native plants to our members, friends, and the greater community, let's remember that the proceeds from the sale go toward Nature Camp scholarships for school-age kids from our region.



Spreading knowledge of, and interest in native plants and their habitats is our purpose, and we are counting on you, our members, to make this year's sale a gratifying success as well as a fun and memorable day for all who participate!

### Plant Donations

We'll appreciate native plants you have and would like to donate, as well as empty pots for transplanting them.

### Potting Parties

Those of you who enjoy potting up plants in pleasant company can join us at one of the many opportunities we'll have in the spring. Bring any empty pots you may spare and come have fun with others who enjoy planting as much as you do.

Contact us at [jccvnps2@gmail.com](mailto:jccvnps2@gmail.com)

### Day of the Sale

There are plenty of opportunities on the day of the event: set-up and clean-up, cashiers, plant experts plant table monitors, and the information table.

### Plant Transportation

We need people with a van, truck, or SUV to help transporting plants to the plant sale site on Saturday, May 4th.



Photo by Phillip Merritt  
John Clayton Chapter

## White Turtlehead

### 2024 VNPS Plant of the Year

By Emilia Godwin

What plant blooms in white and its blossom resembles an animal head? There might be others, but one comes to mind – white turtlehead. The distinctive shape of the two-lipped tubular flowers is reflected in the genus name, derived from the Greek *chelone*, or “a tortoise”. More specifically, in the Greek Mythology, a nymph by this name was turned into a tortoise for failing to attend Zeus and Hera’s wedding.

A robust perennial, the White Turtlehead, (*Chelone glabra*), is the most common and wide spread of the four species native to Eastern North America (as three of those are known to occur in Virginia). Not fussy about sun exposure, the plant grows in sun, part-shade, or part-sun conditions, but does love moist to wet soil, being native to marshes, stream banks, wet ditches, low meadows, and floodplain woodlands. So, this plant might be a good choice for a rain garden, or areas in the garden where swamp milkweed and other moisture-loving species grow. If it’s happy where planted, it may get to 4 feet tall but is usually seen in the range of 2-3 ft. A sunnier spot might lead to sturdier stems, thus not having to stake it if you choose to grow it in your garden. The plant spreads slowly but steadily, gradually forming a nice-sized patch.

Blooming in white (some blossoms show dark-pink or light-pink tips) from July through November, it attracts butterflies, bumblebees, and hummingbirds. It is the larval host of the Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*). Supporting this endangered butterfly might give you another reason to “leave the leaves” in the fall/ winter season and provide dead leaves and plant stalks for the checkerspot caterpillars to overwinter. The blossoms are also a good re-fueling station for hummingbirds before their migration south.

Some sources consider it ‘deer-resistant’ but there’s also evidence that it’s eaten by deer. Even though it’s not toxic, it may not be the first choice for rabbits and deer if we believe one of its common names, ‘bitter herb’. White Turtlehead contains chemicals called iridoid glycosides, so when the Checkerspot feeds on this plant, they become bad tasting to birds, thus the plant provides a defense option for the butterfly.

The White Turtlehead is native to all counties served by John Clayton chapter, and we will make every effort to secure some White Turtlehead plants for the plant sale on May 4th.



Photo by Alice Kopinitz  
John Clayton Chapter



## From the President

First, let me wish you all a Happy New Year for 2024. I hope this will be a great year for native plants and that you will include more of them in your yards after our Plant Sale on May 4. We are excited to begin all of our efforts for a good collection of plants for our plant sale and hope you are going to help us out.

One of the most difficult items for 2024 is to find someone willing to be the editor of the newsletter. I am sure that Emilia Godwin and Cathy Flanagan who have been doing this job in addition to their busy schedules as Publicity Chair, and as Treasurer respectively, could use a new volunteer. Having knowledge of Publishing would be a big help, but not necessary. They could also use someone to coordinate getting more members to contribute articles and photos. We need you to volunteer to help our organization to move forward.

*Lucile M Kossodo*



**It's Time!**

The Plant Sale Committee is having a Planning Meeting on Zoom:

**5:00 pm. January 30th**

Please let us know if you would like to take part!  
Send an email to :

**[jccvnps2@gmail.com](mailto:jccvnps2@gmail.com)**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2274484759?>

All John Clayton videos are recorded and posted to the link below :

**[https://vimeo.com/showcase/8054025.](https://vimeo.com/showcase/8054025)**



Mailing Address

PO Box 1128

Williamsburr, VA 23187

**41 New Members in  
2023!**



Gary Streb

William Baumgartner

Marcie Ford

Zach McFatrige

Anita Angelone

Matthew Hobert

Sandra Cimino

Sheila Glennon

Deb Moore

Tracy Shackelford

David Malmquist

Jennifer Viudez

Antonio Viudez-Mora

Mary Brittingham

Melany Libby

Maureen O'Brien

Cynthia Ferentinos

Dora Rosapepe

Angela Fox

Truman Gerholdt

Drew Gruber

Savannah Allen

Shawn Devlin

Shannon Harris

Michael Indorf

Susan MacKenzie

Raquel Ott

Chris Dombrowski

Carolyn Evans

Deborah Smith

Joanna Yeomans

Adam Ferguson

Adrienne Lambers

Pamela Russell

Sarah Warner

Laura Cote

Cameron Garrett

Adam Ferguson

Adrienne Lambers

Pamela Russell

Sarah Warner

Lynne Carruth

Flo Tull

Joshua Norcross

Phyllis Karppi

Know someone who would like to join? It's easy online!

<https://vnps.org/select-membership-type/>