

# The Apical Meristem

Fall 2012

## Meeting Program

### Highlights

Meetings begin at 7:00pm and are held at the Va Tech Greenhouse classroom located on Washington Street

- Sept 11: Beth Umberger and Mary Rhoades present "Plant Treasures of the Apalachicola River Basin, FL."
- Oct 9: **Annual Chapter Business Meeting** *Following business meeting David Darnell presents "Coast, Chaparral, Mountain, Desert—a Botanical Exploration of Southern California."*
- Nov 13: Floyd County naturalist and author Fred First will present: "Nature Deficit Disorder Enters the Anthropocene."
- Dec 11: Annual Holiday Party and Slide Show

Check out the Calendar on Page 3 for more!

### Plant Walk Highlights

Call the contact person for additional information and meeting time and place

- Sept 22: Glen Alton Wetlands.

Check out the Calendar on Page 3 for more!



## FALL'S GOLDEN HALLMARK:

By Gary Cote'

Goldenrods are one of the classic hallmarks of autumn, bursting into bloom as the leaves change colors on the trees. It is relatively easy to recognize a golden rod, the mass of tiny golden flowers (white in one species) above the green leaves is distinctive. Telling the species apart is not so easy as there are about 100 species in North America; seven different species in Wildwood Park alone. The genus seems to have originated in North America. There are only about a dozen species in South and Central America and another ten in the entire Old World. In North America the greatest variety of species is in the East.

Goldenrods are Composites, that is, plants of the Sunflower Family, Asteraceae. As we saw with the composites featured in earlier Species of the Week, composite flowers are really heads containing two kinds of flowers, ray flowers and disc flowers. The ray flowers spread out like the rays of the sun, and are what most people call the petals. The disc flowers are tubular and crowded together in a button or disc at the center of the head. Tall goldenrod has dozens of tiny heads, each containing nine to fifteen yellow rays and three to eight yellow disc flowers. It has long, narrow leaves, pointed at either end. The stem and the undersides of the leaves are rough hairy. Many goldenrods have basal leaves growing right out of the ground, but tall goldenrod does not. In fact, the lowest leaves on the stem usually turn brown and fall off early, while the rest of the plant is still green and growing. True to its common name, this species is one of the tallest members of the genus, standing three to six feet tall.



## President's Message

It's almost here! The *Flora of Virginia*, the first comprehensive flora of the commonwealth since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is on schedule for publication late this fall. Many thanks to all of you who donated to help fund this important work. Our chapter raised over \$1,000.00 for the *Flora* project and thus will be listed among the contributors in the first edition. In addition, our chapter, like our fellow chapters around the state, is honoring Nikki Staunton for her decades of service to the Virginia Native Plant Society by donating a copy of the *Flora* to the libraries of the public universities in our region, i.e. Virginia Tech and Radford University.

Advance copies of the *Flora of Virginia* may be ordered directly from the publisher, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, for \$79.99 + \$6.50 shipping and handling (see order form at [www.floraofvirginia.org/](http://www.floraofvirginia.org/)). Because additional copies to the same address are only \$3.00 for shipping and handling, you can save \$3.50 by ordering through our chapter. Those interested in purchasing the *Flora* should bring \$82.99 for each copy to the September 11 meeting. Checks should be made out to VNPS-New River Chapter. When the *Flora* is shipped, the copies will be available at the next chapter meeting.



Cardinal flower

By Timo Grueneberg

## Annual Meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>

For the most part our club gets together to either talk about plants or to go outside and look at plants, and this works well. However, once a year we hold a business meeting to take care of our management concerns. Remember that there is a bit of organization and planning that makes this all happen. The annual meeting is where we decide how we will manage our chapter and who will manage our chapter.

Although we do not have a lot management responsibility, we do have bylaws which dictate that we hold annual elections, and more importantly that we participate in such elections, that is we have a quorum of members required to validate action that is conducted during the business meeting. Please make an effort to attend the business meeting **Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm!**

We also need to remind ourselves that each member needs to take a part in the management and planning of our chapter. Please consider serving on the board or as one of our officers!

## Ventures Out and About

\*\*\*No reports were submitted for our chapter's field trips.\*\*\*\*

## Current Officers & Board Members

President: David M. Darnell\*  
 Vice-President: Beth Lancaster\*  
 Treasurer: Carl Hansen  
 Tom Wieboldt—Board member, retiring  
 John Ford—Board member  
 Mary Rhoades—Board member  
 David Jenkins—Board member/Newsletter editor  
 David Jones—Newsletter editor

\*Up for re-election Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>

## Apical Meristem?

What is the name of our newsletter? *Apical meristem*: a meristem (embryonic tissue) at the tip of a shoot or root that is responsible for increasing the plant's length. This is the site of our chapter's growth! To submit any comments or contributions call or email David Jones: 552-3058 or [djones@together.net](mailto:djones@together.net).



## FALL 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sept 11**

**General Meeting: 7:00pm**

*Beth UMBERGER and Mary Rhoades present "Plant Treasures of the Apalachicola River Basin, Fl."* A report of the March VNPS field trip to the Florida panhandle, highlights include: a dwarf cypress forest, a cavern, a rare steephead ravine property owned by the Nature Conservancy, and the beach of St. George Island.

**Sept 22**

**Field Trip:**

*Glen Alton Wetland Walk*

**Leader:** David Darnell, (540)961-1135,

[www.blacksburg.gov](http://www.blacksburg.gov)

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Meeting Location:** Blacksburg Recreation Center

**Note:** Trip is sponsored by the Blacksburg Parks & Rec. Registration and a small fee to cover transportation is required. Bring water and a lunch.

**Description:** See a fascinating montane wetland community that has been enhanced by beaver activity.

**Oct 9**

**Annual Chapter Business Meeting: 7:00 pm**

Election of new board members and officers.

**General Meeting:** *Following business meeting David Darnell presents "Coast, Chaparral, Mountain, Desert—a Botanical Exploration of Southern California."* A Mediterranean climate and rugged topography make the southern part of California among the most botanically diverse areas of the world, with many radically different plant communities found close together. Learn about the major plant associations of the region, the climatic and geologic forces that shaped them, as well as conservation issues and threats to the many endemic, rare and endangered plants found there.

**Nov 13**

**General Meeting: 7:00 pm**

*Floyd County naturalist and author Fred First will present: "Nature Deficit Disorder Enters the Anthropocene."* We live in an age of eroded relationships--to nature, to place and to community, from the local to the global. As we grasp the urgency of re-establishing those connections in the face of challenges on the near horizon, we will rethink who, what, why and where we are. One of the chief reconsiderations near the precipice of tipping points and ecosystem boundaries might well be our relationship--and especially our children's relationship--to the natural world. Successfully addressing "nature deficit disorder" might be one of mankind's most attainable and most beneficial achievements for the long term, as we head into the uncharted future of the Anthropocene. The November 13 conversation will describe the author's experiences, considerations and hopes on this important topic. <http://www.fragmentsfromfloyd.com/>

**Dec 11**

**Annual Holiday Party and Slide Show: 7:00 pm**

Bring goodies to share and enjoy seeing each other's slides. Slides may be either 35mm film or digital.

So that we have time for everybody, please limit your presentation to about 10 or 15 minutes. Also, if you instead have prints or botanical artwork you'd like to share, a display table will be set up for that purpose.

*For information about our chapter meetings or activities, please contact David Darnell at (540) 731-4341 or [gary\\_david@verizon.net](mailto:gary_david@verizon.net). For more information about the Virginia Native Plant Society in general, see [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org).*



### Check This Out!!

*The Flora of Virginia will be published this fall see "President's Message on page 2 for details on how to order.*

Photo From: [home.cfl.rr.com/~usairinfo/Flowers/WhitePineCone.jpg](http://home.cfl.rr.com/~usairinfo/Flowers/WhitePineCone.jpg)

**NEW RIVER CHAPTER  
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

1607 Grove Avenue  
Radford, VA 24141



## *Wanderings:*

# The Fall Meadow

*By David Jones*

It seems that I am partial to spring because, as winter passes, I eagerly anticipate the first bright white blood roots coming up through the leaf litter. Then I go out searching for all of the spring ephemerals as if on an Easter egg hunt: looking here, there and everywhere for a hint of color, or a bright white flower highlighted against the muted earth tones of the forest floor.

But, my bias for the spring ephemerals may be a bit whacky. Sure it is fun to seek them out, but maybe as I age, I seek a bit more efficient stimulus. Or maybe, because of my age I slow down a little and look around more. Whatever the reason, I recently had a startling revelation of the obvious: late summer composites.

While on a walk near Pandapas Pond, it struck me how much I like the late summer meadow. There was no stooping and bending, no looking hither and yon. Here in front of me was a riot of sizes, shapes and colors. Flowers ranged from the clusters of tiny Goldenrod to the

large daisy like sunflowers. The Joe-Pie weed towered above my head and the oblong milkweed seed pods clustered together preparing to split and release their seeds. The colors ranged from several shades and intensities of yellow, to the brilliant red of the cardinal flower, to my favorite, the rich, deep purple of ironweed.

So for today I have a new favorite time of year and category of wildflowers, but don't doubt for a moment that I won't be out this fall looking for the witch hazel's pale yellow thread-like petals, next winter seeking the true first flower of the year, the skunk cabbage, next spring looking for the first blood root, next summer admiring the rich, deep purple of the ironweed.....You come too.

*"Wanderings" are personal observations or descriptions of plants and/or the places they live. Please contribute.*