

The Apical Meristem

Volume II, Issue I

Fall 2006

Meeting Programs

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

- Sept 12: Tom Wieboldt presents a workshop on plant identification
- Oct 10: Chris Ludwig presents a program on the *Flora of Virginia* project
- Nov 14: Chapter Annual Meeting and a slide presentation of Australia and New Zealand

Plant Walks

Call the contact person for meeting time and place.

- 9.45
- Sept 16: Fall wildflower walk in Wildwood Park, Radford, VA. Contact: David Jones 552-3058
 - Oct 14: Fall foliage walk at Pandapas Pond, Blacksburg, VA. Contact: David Jones 552-3958
 - Nov 18: End-of-season walk to see Witch Hazel in flower and review woody plant winter identification. Pandapas Pond, Blacksburg, VA. Contact: David Jones 552-3058.

Fall Native Plant Walks and Programs

Outings and programs fill the fall schedule. The three meeting programs offer a variety of subjects. In September Tom Wieboldt of the Virginia Tech Herbarium will instruct us on plant identification beyond the "ID by colors" given in field guides. In October Chris Ludwig, Executive Director and co-author of the *Flora of Virginia* project will make a presentation on the creation of Virginia's first updated flora since 1743. Our annual meeting is planned for November. In anticipation of efficiently completing business tasks, afterwards, Warren Pierce will present a slide program on Australia and New Zealand.

Three outings are scheduled for the Saturdays following our meeting dates. The first will revisit Wildwood Park in Radford, VA where we held our May picnic. Here we can get an appreciation of the difference between early summer and fall flowering plants. For October we will take a walk in the woods at Pandapas Pond to identify woody species by the color of the fall leaves. Ending the season we will again go to Pandapas Pond, where we can view the last flower of the season, the witch hazel. Additionally, we will review winter tree identification using twigs, buds and leaf scars.

We want our activities to match the interests of our chapter. If you have suggestions for a presentation or a field trip contact one of the officers or board members.



Fire Pink

VNPS Annual Meeting

The VNPS annual meeting will be held September 23-24 in Staunton. Activities include the annual business meeting, a banquet with a keynote address and many field trips. Is any one interested in attending? If so, lets coordinate our travels so that we can congregate to represent our chapter at the group gatherings. More information can be found at vnps.org.

Apical Meristem?

This mailing is the second effort of a chapter newsletter. So, what is the name? *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! Anyone want to be the newsletter editor? There is a lot yet to do to formalize this chapter please consider volunteering to help in some way. Call or email David Jones: 552-3058 or dhjones@together.net.

NEW RIVER CHAPTER OF VIRGINIA

Post Office Box 10134
Blacksburg, VA 24062



Jan Spahr
1300 Harding Rd.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Home Education Students Learn About Native Plants at Ellett Nature Park

On April 18, a group of about 25 HENRV members met for a guided wildflower walk at the Ellett Valley Nature trail. Sunlight was filtering through the trees and the redbuds were blooming gloriously. It was the perfect day for a walk. Our guide was David Jones, an enthusiastic Virginia Native Plant Society member who obviously loves both wildflowers and people.

In the parking area, David explained about several different things. He told us how to choose a good field guide. He defined the terms "alien invasive" and "native wildflower". He showed us how to use field guides. Then we went for our walk. On the walk, we identified different flowers, such as bloodroot; rue anemone, cutleaf toothwort, star chickweed, and garlic mustard. Two friends and I helped David key out a wood geranium. We saw some invasives, which were Japanese honeysuckle, privet, and wineberry. We really enjoyed the wildflower walk. It was a big success. I think everyone in Blacksburg should treasure The Ellett Valley Nature trail.

Kellby Benson

State Grants New River Chapter Status

At the March Board of Directors meeting the Virginia Native Plant Society approved our petition to form a chapter. New River is official; we are now the newest member of the state organization.

What does this action mean to our group? In relation to native plants we are represented by *Silene virginica*, Fire Pink. More importantly we will begin to receive a portion of the membership dues paid to the VNPS. These funds will pay for things like the postage for this mailing. Currently our membership is 26 persons. In our petition to form a chapter the signature page contained 50 signatures of people willing to be charter members. If you enjoy our activities and want them to continue please send in your membership to the VNPS and designate New River as your chapter.

The VNPS state dues directly support our local activities. Thank you.

Chapter Organization & Annual Meeting

Congratulations on the start of our second year of native plant programs and field trips in the New River region. Reflecting the interests and knowledge of our local plant enthusiasts, the schedule seems to fill itself with programs and activities. In addition to enjoying the local natural features our group needs to continue with organizational and procedural tasks. The interim Board of Directors is creating a set of By-laws, developing a slate of candidates for club officers and preparing a budget.

Our club is small and so these tasks are not difficult to prepare but they do take time and energy. In order to keep having programs and outings we need to have an organizational structure. Please consider how you can help. We

need people to serve as officers and committee chairs. As of the August interim board meeting the offices of secretary and vice president were still vacant. If you are willing to serve or can suggest someone who may serve in either of these positions or as a committee chair please contact David Jones, 552-3058 or dhjones@together.net.

In November we will have our annual meeting. The interim board does not anticipate a lengthy business meeting, but the official membership must vote to accept the by-laws, elect the officers and board of directors, and approve the budget. A copies of the by-laws, the slate of officers and the budget will be distributed to the members prior to the annual meeting.