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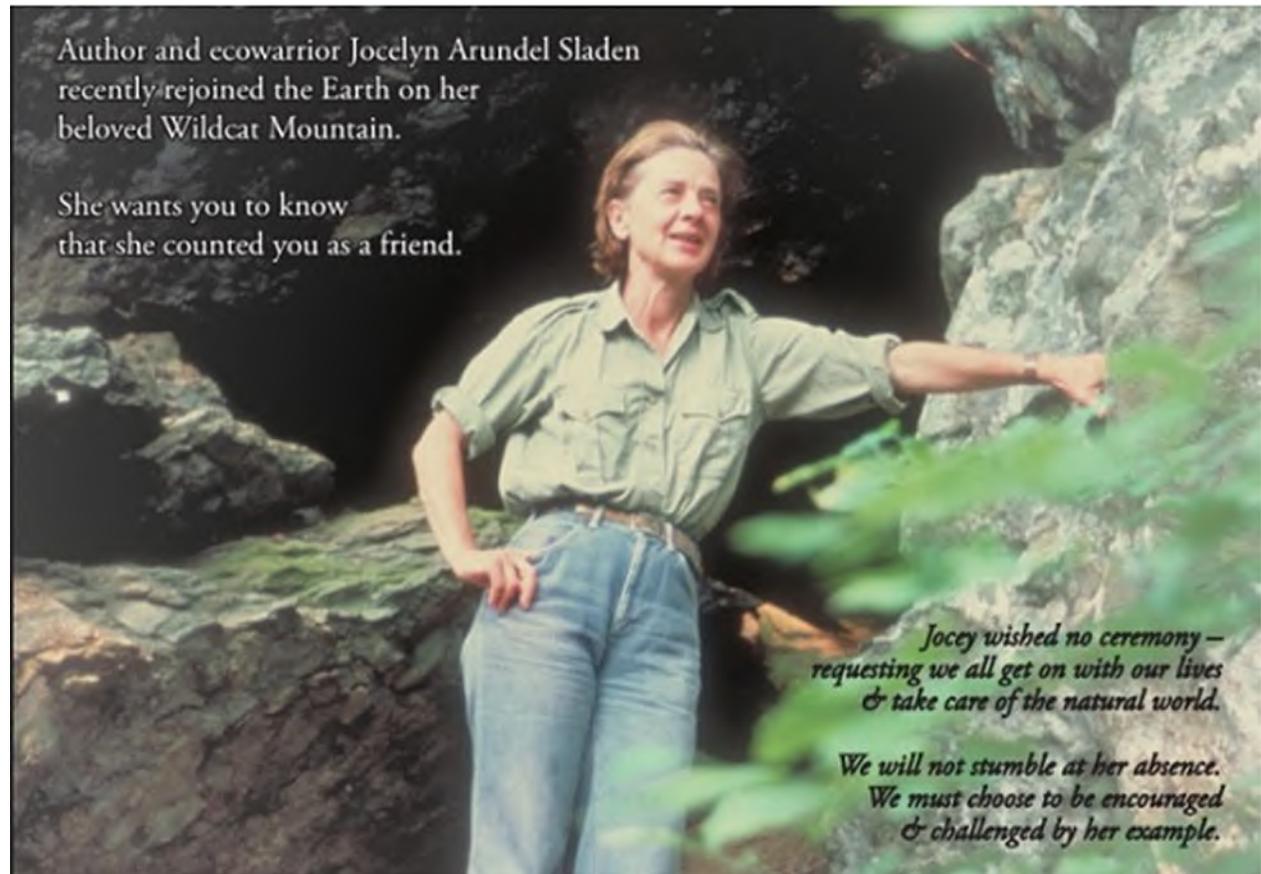


Leaflet

Jocelyn Arundel Sladen

AUTUMN 2023

Piedmont Chapter co-founder Jocelyn Sladen passed away June 29, 2023. We will miss her passion and skill for sharing the wonders of the natural world.



Those Who Show Up by Jocelyn Sladen [repeated from the Autumn 2003 *Leaflet*. The event places and dates Jocelyn mentioned in 2003 have been updated to the 2023 places and dates.]

At one time I was opposed to bumper stickers. Why did the people in that ratty old Buick need to take the moral high ground? What kind of smart aleck thinks I care about his SUV shock message? I've mellowed lately. I've come to think it's interesting to see this kaleidoscope of small notices reflecting what all sorts of people want to say. My daughter recently gave me a great bumper sticker. "Get Involved...The World is Run By Those Who Show Up."

How many times have you tacked up a notice of a hearing, a meeting, a political gathering ...and then not attended?

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Those Who Show Up (continued)

The Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS), founded as the Virginia Wildflower Society in 1982, is a non-profit organization of people who share an interest in Virginia's wild plants and habitats and a concern for their protection.

Our Virginia Native Plant Society does not intend to run the world. Not all of it, anyhow. We do want to preserve (and enjoy) precious and beautiful plant communities in an era that finds them so rapidly disappearing. It's an organization well worth support and involvement.

The Piedmont Chapter is a sub-group of VNPS in the northern point of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It includes Loudoun, Fauquier, Culpeper, Rappahannock, Warren, Clarke, and Frederick counties.

On October 6-8, the annual meeting of VNPS will be held at Virginia Institute of Marine Science]. Details are in your state newsletter...On Saturday, October 21 come to our own chapter annual meeting at The Oak Spring Garden Foundation Pavilion. *Show Up!!*

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The Leaflet can be seen online in color at www.vnps.org/piedmont

The Chapter's email address is piedmontvnps@gmail.com



Jocelyn at the dedication to her mother of the trail from the Trillium Parking Lot to the Appalachian Trail in the Thompson Wildlife Management Area

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Wildcat Mountain article and pictures by Sally Anderson

With fond memories of Jocelyn Sladen, we gathered on an August Saturday to walk the Mountain's fields that she found so exciting. Hosted by her daughter Lili Alexander we began by being reminded of how she loved to keep these areas natural, a little wild, not a garden. Lili noted that Jocelyn's family had donated a different portion of the property as the first The Nature Conservancy preserve in Virginia.



Our leader Devin Floyd has a background in archeology but is now more involved in ecology of the Piedmont region and has started a nonprofit called Center for Urban Habitats. As his research interests have evolved into a study of remnant prairies or savannas in the Piedmont, the group is about to morph into the Piedmont Discovery Center. [Resources about grasslands and about the studies being done in the Piedmont are available from <https://centerforurbanhabitats.com/>]

The remnant prairies patches Devin locates and studies have been characterized as 'old growth grasslands,' self-maintaining (or perhaps maintained by disturbance and special site characteristics) and home to a suite of certain plants of open lands. They feature very high diversity, rare species and usually have few exotic species. They may have been part of larger areas with rocky or hardpan soils that do not support many trees, and the ones that do have trees are fire-adapted species like Blackjack and Post Oak (*Quercus marilandica* and *Q. stellata*). In contrast, typical old fields (agricultural lands) have characteristic weedy natives, many non-natives and invasive plant encroachment. We also discussed the geology and soils of the mountain, and were fascinated by a piece of greenstone that was high enough in iron to tightly hold a magnet.

After giving us some background on his work with these small grassland remnants, we began a circuit of one of the fields on the mountain. These openings are now maintained by periodic mowing. A LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) map of the mountain shows details of micro-topography, often difficult to discern on-site. On the mountain, the map showed lines where orchards once covered large areas. Having looked at the map, in the field we walked, you could perhaps pick out very slight terraces undulating through the field, although the micro-topography is mostly obscured by knee high vegetation.

The plants in the field are suggestive of an area that has been open grassland for at least some periods of its history. Jocelyn always thought so, and would have told you about the Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and other plants that came up in the mowed fields without having been planted there. The fields face west and are a little steep, and in places the greenstone is near the surface. Devin thought that a historic fire return interval of 5 to 8 years could have kept these openings before orchards were planted. On moister, less steep slopes with deeper soils, and without the west facing warmer aspect, the rest of the mountain would have remained forested.

The diversity is high in these fields. There are all of the invasives that torment the landscape of central Virginia and many of the weedier old field species, but there are also two rare plants: Purple Milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*) and Torrey's Mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum torreyi*). As well, groups of plants more characteristic of intact grassland systems were found: Little Bluestem, Narrow-leaf Mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*), Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*), Slender Lespedeza (*Lespedeza virginica*), Clammy Cuphea (*Cuphea viscosissima*), Wild Senna (*Senna marilandica*) and more. The orchards on (continued on page 4)



Torrey's mountain-mint



Wildcat Mountain (continued)

the mountain were probably made by the 1940s, and so perhaps the disturbance was done with less massive machines than today and so was less severe. We wondered if this and the stony parts of the mountain account for the species and diversity of plants that have been recorded.

We returned to the mountain top for snacks and a little more discussion, and I believe all of those who attended knew they had seen a special place.

Faire Meddow—a study in habitat restoration by Laurie MacNaughton

I first visited Sue Puleo and Bob Butcher at their home not long after they married in 2014. Their 10-acre, rolling property, ringed round-about by mixed-deciduous and mid-aged conifer forest, was bordered on one side by a small, year-round stream. Their lovely 100-year-old home sat on a small hill in the middle of shrubby clearings, and a second, smaller stream ran at the base of the hill below the house.

The bottomlands along the creek, however, as well as the woodlands, the riparian buffer, and the meadows were overrun with invasives, and non-native vines formed dense tangles in the woods. In the intervening years, nothing of the lovely lay of the land has changed.

What has changed, however, is astonishing: in less than a decade Puleo and Butcher have taken damaged, former farmland and restored native habitats. Their restoration work on their property—now called Faire Meddow—is both deeply encouraging and profoundly inspiring. Puleo says of naming their property,

We chose the name...last year after visiting Cape Henry, Va...One of the plaques had an excerpt from a colonist's first impression...“Everywhere the eye could see was faire meddow.”

About their restoration journey she says:

For almost a decade we have been working to control invasive species. We learned from Piedmont Region Invasive Species Management how to identify [invasive species] at different times of year, and the best management practices. We got rid of hundreds of *Ailanthus* trees and Oriental Bittersweet vines. At first we cut them down, then learned that [approach] resulted in hundreds of resprouts. We now use the hack and squirt method, which is less work and very effective.

In 2021 Puleo watched a video by Dr. Douglas Tallamy, professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. This set Butcher and Puleo on a course to remove lawn grasses and establish more native species. Based upon Tallamy's materials, they learned about the Keystone Plants by Ecoregion list, a database of native plants of greatest benefit to wildlife.

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A Walk on Wildcat Mountain 8-12-23

by Lori Kesner

It was a beautiful sunny day...

While hiking through natural beauty
On the trails of Wildcat Mountain,
Pausing in a moment of gratitude
For those whose footsteps we walk in.

Thankful for the foresight
Of this family's legacy,
To save flora and fauna for future
generation's
Learning and conservancy.





Faire Meddow (continued)

Saturday July 8, 2023 Puleo and Butcher hosted a VNPS Piedmont Chapter walk featuring their pollinator meadowlands. About 35 VNPS members attended. Butcher and Puleo started with an overview of their reclamation projects and a summary of ongoing efforts.

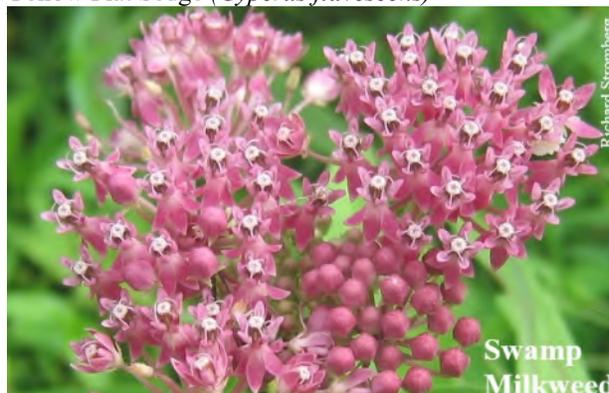
Two groups set out over the gently-sloping property, one group lead by Puleo and the other by Butcher. In addition to a dynamic narrative of their restoration projects, they pointed out species of interest, areas of ongoing battles, and locations of now-senescent spring ephemerals. All who saw Puleo and Butcher's ongoing efforts left with a renewed appreciation for the profound habitat restoration that education and devotion can attain. In addition to plants, songbirds, native pollinators, and birds of prey were abundant. A partial list of plant species observed (both friend and foe) (*=non-native; †=invasive alien):

Woody Plants

American Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)
 American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
 American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
 American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
 †Autumn-Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
 Black Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)
 Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
 †Border Privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*)
 Canadian Service-Berry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
 Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
 Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
 Downy Service-Berry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
 Eastern Poison-Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)
 Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
 Honey-Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
 †Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
 Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
 Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
 Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
 †Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
 Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
 Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*)

Forbs

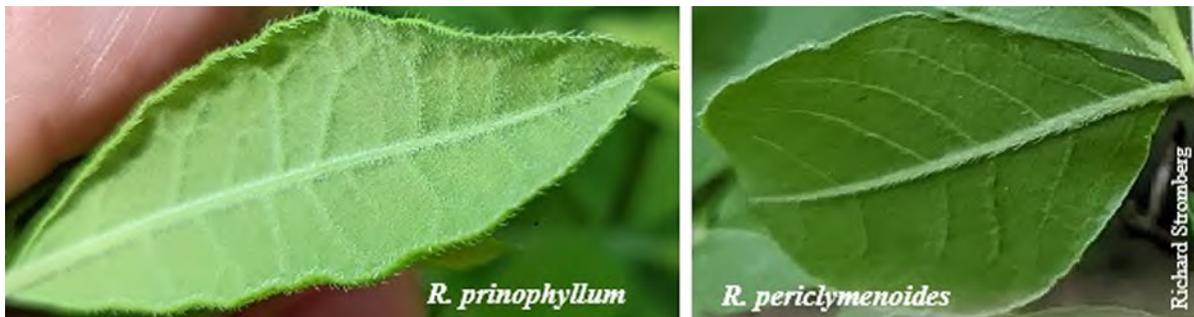
Annual Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)
 *Annual Wormwood (*Artemisia annua*)
 Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
 Broom-Sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*)
 Canadian Wood-Nettle (*Laportea canadensis*)
 Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
 *Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)
 *Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
 †Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)
 †Common Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)
 *Common St. John's-Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
 *Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
 Common Wood-Rush (*Luzula multiflora*)
 †Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*)
 Early Meadow-Rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*)
 Goldenrods *Solidago* spp.
 Great Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*)
 Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*)
 *Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)
 *Queen Anne's-Lace (*Daucus carota*)
 *Rabbit-Foot Clover (*Trifolium arvense*)
 †Rambler Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
 *Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
 Smooth Amaranth (*Amaranthus hybridus*)
 Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
 *Japanese Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)
 Virginia-Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
 White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*)
 Yellow Flat Sedge (*Cyperus flavescens*)





Hair on Plants part 1 (to be continued in future issues of *The Leaflet*) by Richard Stromberg

Hairs on plants keep frost away from living surface cells, break up the flow of air across the plant surface to reduce transpiration (loss of water), reflect sunlight to protect delicate tissues, and deter herbivores. The hair can help determine the species. For example, identification keys differentiate our two pink Azaleas (*Rhododendron periclymenoides* and *R. prinophyllum*) by the hair on the back of the leaves. “Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide” says the underside of the leaves of *R. periclymenoides* are hairy on the midrib only while the underside of *R. prinophyllum* leaves are soft-hairy all over. “The Flora of Virginia” says *R. periclymenoides* leaves are glabrous beneath except for strigose bristles along the midrib and major veins while *R. prinophyllum* leaves are densely and softly pubescent beneath. [I have a problem with this because the flowers appear before the leaves. I tell them apart by smell. Newcomb says *R. periclymenoides* is only faintly fragrant, if at all, while *R. prinophyllum* is very fragrant. I can often smell the latter before I see it.]



How many adjectives do botanists use to describe hairs on plant parts? Lots: short, long, soft, fine, tangled/matted, coarse, stiff, rough, firm, dense, woven, thick, straight, slender, appressed, sharp, spreading, loose, glandular, and gray/white.

Using “Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary” by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris, I found the following nouns botanists use to indicate groups of the above adjectives. In some cases, multiple terms mean the same thing (are synonyms). In many cases a term has a correlating diminutive term indicating small, tiny, minute, fine, short, or very short.

The terms used for no hair

Glabrescent & Glabrate—Becoming hairless at maturity

Glabrous—Without hair; smooth

Smooth—Having an even surface; not rough; not covered with hairs

Terms used to describe a hairy surface

Arachnoid/Araneose—Having long, cobwebby, entangled hairs

Canescence—A covering of short, fine, gray or white hairs producing a gray or white color

Canescent—Gray or white in color due to a covering of short, fine, gray or white hairs

Dasyphyllous—With hairy or woolly leaves

Downy—Covered with soft, fine hairs

Hirsute—Having coarse stiff or bristly hairs; **Hirsutulous/Hirtellate/ Hirtellous**— Having very small coarse stiff or bristly hairs

Hispid—Rough with firm, stiff hairs; **Hispidulous**—Minutely hispid

Hoary—With gray or white short, fine hairs

Holosericeous—Covered with fine, silky hairs

Incanous—Having white short, fine hairs

Lanuginose & Lanuginous—Downy or woolly; with soft downy hairs

Lanugo—A covering of soft downy hairs; **Lanulose**—minutely woolly.

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Register for these events at piedmontvnps@gmail.com.

Tuesday	Sep 5	2-4pm	Piedmont Chapter Board Meeting
Clarke County. Blandy Experimental Farm Library, 400 Blandy Ln - Boyce. All Chapter members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.			
Saturday	Sep 9	10am	Abrams Creek Preserve Walk
Frederick County. Shenandoah University Professor emeritus Woody Bousquet will lead a walk in the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve in Winchester.			
Saturday	Oct 21	1pm	Chapter Annual Meeting
Loudoun County. Meeting and Election of Officers and Board of Directors at The Oak Spring Garden Foundation Pavilion followed by a walk on the property. Details will be sent to you in the meeting notice. Show up!			
Tuesday	Nov 7	2-4pm	Piedmont Chapter Board Meeting
Clarke County. Blandy Experimental Farm Library, 400 Blandy Ln - Boyce. All Chapter members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.			
Saturday	Nov 11	10am	Second Saturday Walk
Being planned			
Tuesday	Dec 5	2-4pm	Piedmont Chapter Board Meeting
Clarke County. Blandy Experimental Farm Library, 400 Blandy Ln - Boyce. All Chapter members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.			

Hair on Plants (continued)

Manicate—With a thick, interwoven short, soft hairiness

Multiciliate—with many small hairs (cilia)

Pannose—Covered with short, dense, felt-like or closely woven woolen hairs

Papillose-hispid—With stiff hairs borne on swollen, nipple-like bases

Piliferous—Tipped with a fine hair-like structure

Piloglandulose—With glandular hairs

Pilose—Having long, soft, straight hairs; **Pilosulose/Pilosulous**—Having minute long, soft, straight hairs

Plumose—Having hairs along both sides of an axis, like a feather

Polytrichous—Hairy

Pubescent(ce)—Covered with short, soft hairs; bearing any kind of hairs; **Puberulence/Puberulous**—Short, fine hairs; **Puberulent**—Having very short, fine hairs; minutely pubescent

Scabrous—Rough to the touch because of very short, stiff hairs or short, sharp projections;

Scabrerulous/Scaberulose/Scabrellate—Slightly rough to the touch because of very short, stiff hairs or short, sharp projections

Sericeous—Silky, with long, soft, slender, somewhat appressed hairs

Silky—Covered with long, soft, slender, somewhat appressed hairs

Stegium—A covering of thread-like hairs on the styles of some Milkweeds

Strigose—Bearing sharp, straight, stiff, appressed hairs; **Strigillose/Strigulose**—Finely strigose

Tomentose—Covered with soft, tangled or matted hairs; **Tomentulose/Tomentellous**—Finely or sparingly tomentose; **Tomatum**—A covering of short, soft, tangled or matted hairs

Trichocarpous—With hairy fruit

Velutinous—Velvety; covered with short, soft, spreading hairs

Villous/Villose—Having long, soft, shaggy hairs that are not tangled or matted; **Villosulose**—diminutive of Villous



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Curlyheads (Clematis ochroleuca)



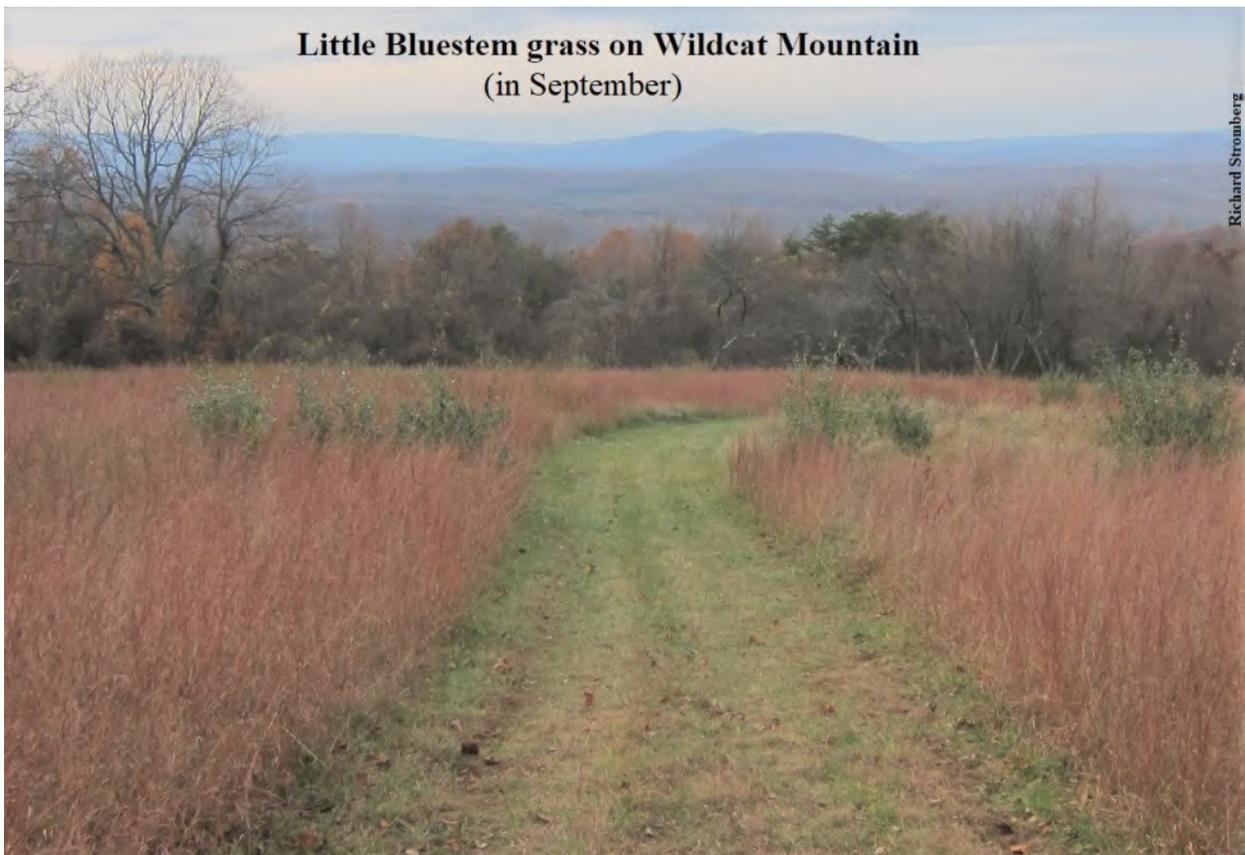
pubescent
Staghorn Sumac

Richard Stromberg



glabrous
Smooth Sumac

Richard



Little Bluestem grass on Wildcat Mountain
(in September)

Richard Stromberg