FALL

POTOWMACK NEWS

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

VOLUME 41, No. 5, NOV-DEC, 2023

Cranefly Orchid Tipularia discolor By Margaret Chatham



CRANEFLY ORCHID IN BLOOM 8/12/21. ALL PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE BY MARGARET CHATHAM.

Tipularia discolor is named for the insect cranefly (Tipula) in both its common and scientific names, an insect like an oversized, non-biting mosquito that I most often notice flying around an invisible hamster wheel at about knee-level. Cranefly Orchid flowers are a little more substantial than cranefly insects, but certainly can be hard to spot against a background of leaf litter. "Discolor" means two-toned, for the tops of its leaves are green but the bottoms are purple. You'll never see Cranefly Orchid leaves and flowers at the same time, since the leaves come up in the early fall and spend the winter photosynthesizing when light can come through the open canopy, and die back once the canopy closes, while the flowers only emerge in midsummer, the better to attract armyworm moths (Mythimna unipuncta) and other moths to pollinate it. [Thank you, https://www.backyardecology.net/cranefly-orchid-tipularia-discolor-a-cryptic-native-orchid/]

Like other orchids, Cranefly Orchid produces tiny seeds that need the help of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Upcoming

Fall Colors at Dyke Marsh Led by Alan Ford and Margaret Chatham

Monday, Oct 23, 1-3 pm
Turning leaves and perhaps a few late flowers — who knows? Space limited: register by sending an email with "Fall Colors Walk" in the subject line to info@fodm.org.

Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting

Sunday, Nov 5, 1-3:30 pm In person at Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center

1 pm Social Time and Refreshments 1:30 pm Annual Business Meeting and Elections

2 pm Presentation by Botany Chair:

Nelson DeBarros: Our Native Asters

We have so many native asters, from Aug-Sept blooming White Wood Asters (*Eurybia* divaricata) to Oct-Nov blooming New England Asters (*Symphyotichum novae*angliae) — how do we know who's who?

Annual Winter Solstice Field Trip & Hooley at Chapman State Park, MD

Sunday, Dec 17, 10 am-3 pm
No registration required to follow Rod
Simmons around Chapman Forest's oldage forest from water-willow shrublands by
the Potomac to marl cliffs and ravines. Cosponsored by MNPS, Botanical Society of
Washington, and VNPS.

January Program: Charles Smith Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30-9 pm By Zoom

Not sure yet what his topic will be, but we again look to Charles Smith to start us off on a new year with native plants.

All events are free and open to the public. Walks require preregistration. To receive email notices about upcoming events, subscribe to our mailing list at https://

vnps.groups.io/g/potowmack You can also send a blank email to

potowmack+subscribe@vnps.groups.io.

Manage your VNPS Membership Online

- 1. Go to https://vnps.z2systems.com/
- 2. Enter your VNPS member username. This is usually your email address.
- 3. If you don't know or have forgotten your password, click on "Forgot Password?"
- 4. Once logged in, you can manage your account and preferences by clicking on "What would you like to do?" in the upper right-hand corner.
- 5. Select "Update My Profile Information."
- 6. To request a paper newsletter, at the bottom of your Profile Information, set "Electronic Distribution" to "No."
- 7. Update any other profile information, then click "Submit."



Subscribe to our Potowmack Chapter email discussion group to receive and send email about native plants in our area including questions, answers, and discussions. You don't have to be a VNPS member and there are no ads. Over 350 members strong! Just send a blank email to potowmack+subscribe@vnps.groups.io. Visit https://vnps.groups.io/g/potowmack to look around.

CRANEFLY ORCHID FROM PAGE 1



NEW LEAVES EMERGING 9/15/23

just the right fungus to germinate. From the time the orchid germinates until it puts a leaf out into the upper world, it is called a protocorm. It appears that Cranefly Orchid needs a fungus that grows in rotting wood to germinate, but may associate with different fungi as an adult plant, and so may continue to grow after the rotting wood is gone. See "Protocorm-Supporting Fungi Are Retained in Roots of Mature *Tipularia discolor* Orchids as Mycorrhizal Fungal Diversity Increases" https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8233912/

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Submissions to Potowmack News may be sent to The Editor at vnps.pot@gmail.com

Potowmack Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 5311
Arlington, VA 22205
http://www.vnps.org/potowmack

Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Nov 5, 2023 at 1:00 PM, in the Horticulture Center at Green Spring Gardens Park. If you cannot attend to vote then, please send in this ballot by Oct. 30 to Potowmack Chapter VNPS, PO Box 5311, Arlington, VA 22205, or email your vote to vnps.pot@gmail.com

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024

The Board of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS presents the following slate of officers for the 2023 year, with terms beginning January 1. Contact Alan Ford for further information at amford@acm.org

SLATE OF OFFICERS

Write-in	
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Proposed Budget for 2024	Final Approved FY23 Budget		Proposed FY24 Budget		Notes
INCOME					
Regular donations	\$	900	\$	700	FY24 number is annual average of year-to-date donations since 2019.
Member dues	\$	6,100	\$	8,900	FY24 number reflects estimated 2023 dues of \$8K with 12% increase.
Sales	\$	20,000	\$	22,000	FY24 increase per Scott's projected revenues on 9/7/23.
Total income	\$	27,000	\$	31,600	
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Administrative	\$	500	\$	1,500	Includes additional funding for professional consultant.
Green Spring room fees	\$	2,000	\$	2,000	
Membership development	\$	200	\$	200	
Programs - talks	\$	1,200	\$	1,200	Speaker fees for 8 talks.
Programs - walks	\$	900	\$	900	Guide fees for 6 walks.
Newsletter printing and mailing	\$	2,500	\$	3,000	Five newsletters averaging over \$500 each.
Green Spring internship	\$	3,800	\$	4,000	FY24 increase reflects estimated increase of 6% for GS internship.
Huntley Meadows internship	\$	3,500	\$	3,700	FY24 increase reflects estimated increase of 6% for HM internship.
Additional third internship (Location TDB)	\$	3,500			Item moved to "Board-Approved Expenses Against Savings" for FY24.
Commissions to Green Spring	\$	3,200	\$	3,520	FY24 sales projected to be higher. Commission is 15% of sales.
Plant sale Virginia Sales Tax	\$	1,200	\$	1,320	FY24 sales projected to be higher. Sales tax is 6% of sales.
Printing/publications	\$	500	\$	500	
Propagation beds at Green Spring	\$	2,000	\$	2,500	Includes cost of bench at Propagation beds.
Event planner			\$	2,500	Chapter support to State organization for event planning.
Supplies & Materials/Miscellaneous	\$	1,000	\$	1,000	
Special board actions	\$	1,000	\$	3,760	Assumes Board will increase giving to special causes in FY24.
Total Operating Expenses	\$	27,000	\$	31,600	
BOARD-APPROVED EXPENSES AGAINST SAVINGS					
New Scholarships	\$	6,000	\$	6,000	Assumes Budget Advisory Committee recommendation for FY24.
Additional third internship (Location TDB)			\$	4,000	Assumes Budget Advisory Committee recommendation for FY24.
Total Expenses Against Savings	\$	6,000	\$	10,000	
Total Expenses	\$	33,000	\$	41,600	
Total Income less Total Expenses	\$	(6,000)	\$	(10,000)	

Check one: I approve____I do not approve____the proposed FY 2024 Budget.

-Pedia Series Reviewed by David Gorsline



A volume or two of the "pedia" series from Princeton Unversity Press may have popped up in your various feeds of recommended books. I looked into the three volumes of most interest to VNPS members: *Florapedia*, by Carol Gracie (2021); *Treepedia*, by Joan Maloof (2021); and *Fungipedia*, by Lawrence Millman (2019). On the whole, I liked what I read.

Each of these "brief compendia of lore" follows a set format: in the space of a small hardcover field guide (about 5 by 7 inches and 165 pages), about 120 articles are alphabetically arranged, covering aspects of flowers, trees, or fungi, respectively. Articles range from the basics (there are entries for Maple and Ash in Maloof's *Treepedia*) to the delightfully obscure. Consider the Train Wrecker fungus (*Neolentinus lepideus*), kin to our tasty shiitake mushrooms. There are pieces on historical figures (Lucy Braun and Peter Kalm, for examples), economic uses, aspects of biology (Elaiosomes, Hydathodes), and so on. The

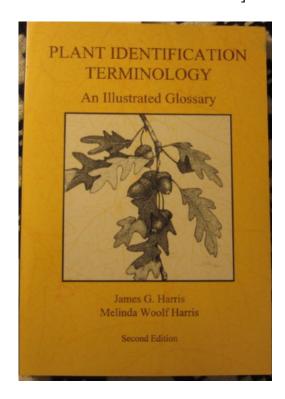
tone is light (Millman slips in a reference to TV producer Paul Hennings), but the science is solid, with binomials used throughout. Illustrations, scattered through each book, are generally helpful. A few pages of references round out each book.

The format doesn't allow space for a table of contents or index, and this lack is the biggest weakness of the design. Not every important concept gets its own entry, so whenever "bract" shows up in Gracie's *Florapedia* the uninitiated reader must scamper back to Bunchberry for an explanation of the term – or look to a different book altogether for a definition of "disjunct" or "dehiscence." Granted, Millman and Maloof make limited use of "See alsos" to assist the reader.

Don't mistake these books for encyclopedic references. However, any of them would provide a tasty snack of a few entries at the end of your reading day.

See https://press.princeton.edu/series/pedia-books for more information on these books and others in the series

[Editor's note: for help in figuring out all those peculiar botanical terms, I highly recommend *Plant Identification Terminology: an Illustrated Glossary* by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris. Spring Lake Publishing, 2nd edition, 2001. According to Amazon, it contains over 1900 line drawings to illustrate more that 2700 taxonomic terms — I haven't counted.]







Some seeds grow inside odd casings, pods, bladders, what have you. How many do you recognize? Photos by Margaret Chatham.

- 1 Asclepias syriaca, Common Milkweed
- 2 Calystegia sepium, Hedge Bindweed
- 3 Carpinus caroliniana, Hornbeam
- 4 Corylus americana, Hazelnut
- 5 *Halesia tetraptera, Carolina Silverbell



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Words of the Month: Pedicel/Peduncle/Petiole



has visible petioles and no peduncles. Both grow in our area. Photos by Margaret Chatham

Pedicel: stalk of a single flower in an inflorescence or of a grass spikelet

Peduncle: stalk of a solitary

flower or of an inflorescence

Petiole: stalk of a leaf

Monkey Flower, *Mimulus* ringens, on the left, has long peduncles and no petioles. Winged Monkey Flower, *Mimulus alatus*, on the right,

Answers to the puzzle on page 5: 1-H; 2-F; 3-J; 4-G; 5-B (a lovely small tree, native along the New River within Virginia, but not in our area); 6-C; 7-E; 8-I; 9-A; 10-D