



# *Shenandoah Chapter* *Virginia Native Plant Society* *April 2010*

## **Mission Statement:**

We are a conservation organization dedicated to conserve Virginia's native plants and their ecosystems through education, advocacy and activities that promote appreciation, stewardship and appropriate use.

**Next Meeting:** April 8. We will meet at Bald Rock Road at 6:30 for our annual spring wildflower walk. For further information or directions, contact Chris Bowlen 540-289-6801, [chris.bowlen@gmail.com](mailto:chris.bowlen@gmail.com) or Michael Seth, 540-438-1301, [sethmj@jmu.edu](mailto:sethmj@jmu.edu).

## Calendar 2010

- ❖ April 10 – Black's Run Clean-up, Harrisonburg
- ❖ April 17 – Earth Day in Staunton 9am – Noon Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day and help with the Shenandoah Chapter Plant sale. Details below
- ❖ April 18 – Edith Carrier Arboretum JMU Harrisonburg 2PM meet at the Visitor Center for a walk through the arboretum. Public is welcome. Shenandoah Chapter members will lead the tour.
- ❖ April 20, 4:30 pm. "A hands-on introduction to dirt." Meet in parking lot behind Memorial Hall, corner of Grace and Willow Street. Expect to get dirt under your fingernails, to taste dirt, and to smell dirt. Tony Hartshorn will introduce you and your children to the wonders of the Shenandoah Valley dirt you eat from, walk on, drive on, and live on. Sponsored by the JMU Department of Geology and Environmental Science. Rain date Wednesday, April 21, same time and place.
- ❖ April 24 – Riverfest, Waynesboro 10am-4pm Shenandoah Chapter Plant sale
- ❖ April 24 – Native plant sale sponsored by JMU Edith Carrier Arboretum, Harrisonburg
- ❖ April 24 – 10am, Tim Kreps, Bridgewater College Environmental Science Professor will lead students and volunteers in invasive plant removal at Purcell Park. Gloves and boots would be appropriate. Meet at Shelter #2 at Purcell Park. Sponsor: Bridgewater College Department of Biology
- ❖ May 1-2 Wildflower Weekend Webster County WV Camp Caesar. Visit Webster County WV website or contact Jay Shaner 540-886-5763 for additional information
- ❖ May 16 – Shenandoah Chapter Annual Picnic at Muttontop Cabin near Shenandoah National Park 1PM-Dark. Details below

## Shenandoah Chapter Annual Plant sale

Swelling buds on the trees and emerging shoots from the ground signal us that it is time to make plans for our annual plant sale. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> when we will once again set up our booth at the Earth Day Festival in Staunton 9 am-Noon, across from Sunspots (near the Farmer's Market). Our second Saturday sale will be April 24 at the Waynesboro Farmer's Market for Riverfest 10AM-early afternoon. The potential for making this a big fundraiser is great if we can get enough plants and helpers. Proceeds will benefit the Flora of VA Project.

We will need your help in two ways:

- (1) Bags of potting medium and pots will be available at the April meeting. Some of you may have

already started plants from seed and as plants emerge from the ground please pot some of your “extras” to offer for sale. You can bring your plants to the April meeting or we can make arrangements to pick them up from you.

- (2) We will need volunteers to work the day of the sale. Please mark your calendars now and try to give an hour or two to help.

Virginia Bluebells, Queen of the Prairie, Green and Gold, and Dwarf Crested Iris, Hepatica, Spring Beauty, Jack in the Pulpit, Christmas Fern, and Pachysandra are just a few of the many types of plants that will be offered.

If you have any questions, please call Barbara McSweeney at (540) 363-1116 [barbmcs@newhopetel.net](mailto:barbmcs@newhopetel.net), or Anneli Tattersall (540) 248-0932 [annelitatt@yahoo.com](mailto:annelitatt@yahoo.com)

### **Annual Picnic Sunday May 16 at the Vining Tract off 33 in Lydia.**

The Vining Tract is an 800 acre property adjacent to the SNP and connected to the park by trail. It contains a number of short trails from a half mile to three miles in length that wind through lush woods, meadows and along cliffsides. Because of the varied terrain the modest area has a wide variety of native plants. We have rented a cabin Muttontop for the occasion. The trails connect directly to the doorstep of the cabin. The area around the cabin has some items of historical interest including the “Churchill bathtub.”



Our plan is to arrive around 1pm (folks can arrive later, if need be) and spend an afternoon leisurely exploring the trails which run from the cabin to the national park. At 4:30, we will begin the potluck. There is no fridge so bring food that won't spoil. Water is available at the hand pump. There is a big veranda with a great view to the east, which offers shelter from sun or rain. Please come and stay a while.

Directions: Take 33 East past Swift Run Gap. As you descend on the east side of Swift Run Gap take SR636, the first road on your right about a half mile

past the park boundary, and just past Blue Ridge Pottery. Drive about one mile on 636 until you come to the parking lot. It's a rough road but doable in a Honda Civic.

Contact Michael Seth 540-438-1301 or Chris Bowlen 540-289-6801 to let them know you are coming. Bring a dish to share and your choice of beverage. Drinking water, paper plates, napkins and utensils will be provided. Musical instruments are also welcome.

### **Shenandoah Chapter Treasurer**

Shenandoah Chapter Board is very pleased to announce that Joe Sharrer has volunteered to take on the duties of Chapter Treasurer. Please submit Chapter expenses or donations to him. [joes41@comcast.net](mailto:joes41@comcast.net) 540-434-8494 Thanks Joe!

### **Forest Plan Revision Workshops**

The George Washington National Forest is resuming its Forest Plan Revision in April. Even if you attended meetings in the past, consider letting your voice be heard yet again. This plan will determine how our public lands will be managed for the next 15-20 years. Shenandoah Chapter members have spent many hours appreciating and surveying the flora and fauna in the GW National Forest over the past years. Public lands

are under increasing pressure for specific uses, especially now because of the potential energy resources they contain. If you think an ecosystem approach to maintain biodiversity and reduce forest fragmentation in the GW is important, tell the Forest Service what you think. Attend a meeting or write a letter. Details are available at [www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj).

Workshops are from 6:30-9PM

Monday, April 12 Valley Elementary School Hot Springs, VA

Wednesday, April 14 East Hardy High School, Baker WV

Monday, April 19 Rockbridge Co. High School

Wednesday, April 28 Woodstock National Guard Armory, Woodstock, VA

Thursday, April 29 Augusta County Government Center, Verona, VA

### **Native Grass Seedling Project for SNP**

Last year, you helped us triple the number of native seedlings that Shenandoah produced for restoration projects. Thanks to you, we established over 6000 native grass plants at restoration sites in the Park! Sites that were once covered with mile-a-minute and Japanese knotweed are slowly but surely being converted to locally-native grasses.

This year, I'm hoping we can top this number. But I only have so much windowsill space. So, if you've got an unadorned window that could use an attractive salad container or two of potting soil beneath it for 6 weeks or so, let me know and I'll hook you up. As last year, we're working primarily with little bluestem, Indiangrass, hairgrass and poverty oat/moonshine grass. If you're interested let me know how many containers you can accommodate.

We can also use help with transplanting seedlings and, later in the summer, collecting seed. Again, let me know if you're interested and I'll put you on the list.

Thanks!

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