



Shenandoah Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society October 2011

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 Meetings: Thursday October 13 Chapter Meeting

Place: Blue Ridge Community College Plecker 126B

Time: 7:30

Program: Joe Sharrer will give a slide presentation: "New York Botanical Garden in Spring and Fall"

For more information contact Michael Seth sethmj@jmu.edu (540) 438 1301

Thursday November 10 Chapter Meeting

Place: Blue Ridge Community College Plecker 126B

Time: 7:30

Program: Chris Bolgiano will give a presentation on her new book Southern Appalachian Celebration: In Praise of Ancient Mountains, Old-Growth Forests, & Wilderness

For more information contact Michael Seth sethmj@jmu.edu (540) 438 1301

Other Events

Thursday, October 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The Foundation of the State Arboretum at Blandy Farm presents "The Future American Landscape: Getting Off the Turf Treadmill," with Neil Diboll, President Prairie Nursery. The program is free and will take place at the Stimpson Auditorium, Halpin-Harrison Hall, Shenandoah University.

Description: The traditional American landscape is an ecological, economic, and energy disaster. Vast amounts of fertilizers, pesticides, water, and carbon are used to maintain these artificial environments. Learn why native plants are the best solution to this growing problem.

Recent Chapter Activities

Augusta Springs Trip Sept 10, 2011

Saturday was a perfect late summer day with mild temperatures, sunny sky and a light breeze.

Eight people joined to walk the trail and enjoy the flora in a very wet wetland landscape with more water than any of us had seen there before. The area has been very well maintained by the Forest Service.

Plants seen in bloom included: cardinal flower, great lobelia, lots of New York ironweed and golden rod, thoroughwort, wingstem as high as 8+ feet tall, carrion flower in seed, some very late vipers bugloss. The signature plant of this area, the bottle gentian was in full and plentiful flower with stems as high as two feet, taller than any of us had seen before there. The woods were full of fungi of many sorts in the area between the trail and Route 42. Shrubs included staghorn sumac and spice bush, both were plentiful.

On a short walk up the forest trail we saw several asters including wood aster and crooked stem aster as well as white snakeroot. Along the stream was a beautiful swamp milkweed with an array of fresh green seed pods looking much like fresh okra. Poke weed was gigantic. Black-eyed Susan, thimbleweed, Joe Pye weed and wild lettuce were also present.

Finally the group located the small colony of giant Solomon's seal that had become hidden by brush growth. It was a profitable walk on a pleasant afternoon.

Joe was joined Anneli Tatersall, Barbara Sweeney, Eleanor Baker, Bob Eggleston and a friend, Page Sharrer and a lady from Broadway originally from New Zealand.

September 20 Field Trip to Tilghman Road

There were twelve people on the field trip including Anne Nielsen, Chad, Pat and Bill Churchman, Lib Kyger, Joe Sharrer, Bea Woody, Mike Seth and Chris Bowlen and Diane Holsinger. Although it rained earlier in the day, the weather became fine and the wildflowers abundant along the forest road.

All had a great time identifying asters and goldenrods. Along the roadside were turtle heads, monkhood, tall white lettuce, deciduous holly, sassafras, spice bush, jewelweed and horse balm. We had seven species of asters: Lowery's aster, bushy aster, calico aster, white wood aster, heart leaf aster, crooked aster, heath aster, plus rough stem goldenrod, blue stem goldenrod and late goldenrod. Diane also brought a SUV load of mushrooms she had found in the woods earlier in the day: jack o'lantern, honey mushrooms, Russulas, Lactarius, old man of the woods and many others.

The Annual Meeting of the VNPS in Manassas on September 16-18. Michael Seth attended representing our chapter but arrived too late to participate in the business meeting. There was a good turnout. He joined twenty-four others in a field trip to Bull Run Mountain with its impressive biological diversity on Saturday.

Chapter Officers

President	vacant		
Vice President	Michael Seth	540-438-1301	sethmj@jmu.edu
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If you have announcements, articles or reviews for the newsletter (no matter how short), please contact Elaine Smith antigone16@comcast.net