



# Shenandoah Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society May 2012

## **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.

## **Upcoming Events**

- ❖ **May 12 Reddish Knob Wildflower Excursion.** We will meet at Hone Quarry, and then carpool. Bring a lunch. Contact Joe Sharrer [joes41@comcast.net](mailto:joes41@comcast.net) (540) 434 8494
- ❖ **May 24. 9:30 Wavy Leaf Basket Grass removal.** Shenandoah National Park Habitat Defenders Program Site near Elkton. Contact Chris Bowlen [bowlenchris@comcast.net](mailto:bowlenchris@comcast.net) or 540-289-6801 if you plan to participate. All hands are welcome.  
Last year, Shenandoah Chapter adopted a site in Shenandoah National Park to help control wavy leaf basket grass. This will be a once or twice a year commitment to visit the site near Elkton to remove this perennial grass. The Habitat Defenders Program was started as a way to help the National Park control invasive plants that threaten sensitive areas. Wavy Leaf Basket Grass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) is native to Europe and Asia. It is found only in Maryland and Virginia in closed canopy forests. It has characteristic wavy leaves and uses above ground runners to form patches. Seeds ripen late July-Aug. It can easily be pulled by hand.
- ❖ **June 10 Sunday Annual Picnic/walk** Shenandoah National Park South River Picnic Area. 1PM. Bring a dish to share and your own beverage. Chapter will provide plates, utensils, cups, napkins.

## **Other Events**

- ❖ **May 5 There will be a JMU arboretum walk** that we will be helping with. Contact: Chris Bowlen [bowlenchris@comcast.net](mailto:bowlenchris@comcast.net) (540) 289 6801

## **Recent Chapter Activities**

**March 22 Thursday 10 AM Garlic Mustard removal at Deep Run Ponds** (Chris Bowlen, reporting). Four volunteers: Bea Woody, Anneli Tattersall, Rae Kasdan and Chris Bowlen spent the morning pulling garlic mustard. This year we had to bag and carry out what we pulled because the plants had already started to form flowers. This was the first time we had to do that since we started doing garlic removal in late March.

The original site near pond 3 is essentially free of garlic mustard and just needed a quick check. The second area we have been removing garlic mustard from is an area adjacent to an old cabin site. This area continues to improve with each year's efforts. However, there is a high density of coralberry, Japanese honeysuckle, garlic mustard and other invasives at the cabin site that continues to be a source of problems. We heard a great chorus of frogs and saw a woodcock right along the trail foraging. In all, a very good day to be out.

**March 29 Spring Wildflower and Bird Field Trip** Diane Holsinger led this trip that began at Little Stony in Edinburg at ten in the morning. Five people joined her for the spring wild flower walk: Penny Warren, Teresa Townsend, Judy Good, Jerry Hopkins and Betty Forrest. It was a fine sunny spring day with temperatures in the 50's and plenty of flowers to keep everyone busy- all totaled 40 species. Among the

interesting ones were a large stand of Marsh Marigold along the stream, water cress, bluebells, round leaf hepatica, miterwort, coltsfoot in flower & some had already gone to seed, wood anemone, and a large stand of columbine.

They also saw brown creepers, a hairy woodpecker and a red tail hawk.

**April 12 Wildflower Walk to Hone Quarry** About a dozen folks came for the annual April wildflower walk. This year we met at Hone Quarry. We met and parked at the picnic area about 5pm and explored the immediate environs. Among the many flowers seen in bloom were red trilliums, bishops caps, several violets including long-spurred, common and yellow, wood anemones, bellworts, cutleaf toothwort (one still in bloom). Folks wandered around for an hour on this nice spring day before departing.

**April 14 Earth Day Staunton** Several chapter members participated in this.

**April 21 Ramsey's Draft** Several chapter members along with a dozen PATC folks worked on the main trail for Earth Day. Ramsey's Draft has an enormous invasive problem; much of it is overrun by garlic mustard. Unfortunately a T-storm arrived before the removal began. Perhaps we should come back here soon to deal with some of the invasives in this beautiful and heavily visited area.

**April 26 Madison Run Invasive Inventory** Due to threatening weather among other things only Anneli Tattersall and Lib Kyger came to this event. They met at the entrance of Madison Run Fire Rd and walked in. The lupines were in full bloom and there were many other things to see including yellow pimpernel. Jake Hughes of the SNP hopes to carry out extensive invasive removal this area, a favorite of locals, for horse riding, hiking or just taking a walk.

**April 28 Shenandoah Chapter Plant Sale** Another successful plant sale was completed with the help of many volunteers. The total from both Staunton and Waynesboro sale days was \$851. We offered a large variety of healthy plants thanks to all who contributed plants, in particular, Susan Hagen. A special thanks to Anneli and Bill Tattersall, Eleanor Baker, Bea Woody, Rae Kasdan, Jerry Hopkins, Chris Bowlen and all who volunteered their time and efforts to make this such a success.

This is the last newsletter until next fall. If you have announcements, articles or reviews, please contact Elaine Smith [antigone16@comcast.net](mailto:antigone16@comcast.net)

#### Chapter Officers

|                                     |              |              |                         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                    | vacant       |              |                         |
| <b>Vice President</b>               | Michael Seth | 540-438-1301 | sethmj@jmu.edu          |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                    | Joe Sharrer  | 540-434-8494 | joes41@comcast.net      |
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| <b>Membership</b>                   | Bea Woody    | 540-289-6106 | beawoody@hotmail.com    |
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