



Shenandoah Chapter *Virginia Native Plant Society* *June 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.

Annual Picnic/walk June 10 1 pm Sunday Shenandoah National Park South River Picnic Area (mile 62.8). Bring a dish to share. Chapter will provide plates, utensils, cups, napkins. Contact Michael Seth sethmj@jmu.edu 540 438 1301 for more information.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **June 16** Saturday Outdoor Adventure Fair - an event designed for the public to come by and meet people engaged in all sorts of outdoor activities that they might want to pursue. This year the event will be on Saturday, June 16th from 10:00 - 2:00 at the Sole Source in Harrisonburg.
- ❖ **June 16** Wild Virginia Rapidan Camp
Wild Virginia is doing a short family friendly hike. The Mill Prong Trail in Shenandoah National Park begins just south of Big Meadows at Mile Post 52.8 on Skyline Drive, and gradually heads down to Rapidan Camp where President Hoover came to relax and fish. The total distance of this hike is 3.6 miles. We will hike at a family friendly pace and search for things as we go. When we get to Rapidan Camp we'll explore some more and take a lunch break at the camp before heading back to the trailhead. Please bring lunch, snacks, water and extra clothes in case it gets cool or wet. There are a few stream crossings along the way so an extra pair of shoes is also a good idea. Please contact Bette Dzamba, bd4q@virginia.edu or 434 295-5186, if you'd like to come along. Details such as starting time and carpool information will be provided. Although this hike will be geared towards families, everyone is welcome
- ❖ **July 1** The local chapter of the PATC will be measuring the Hone Quarry Ridge Trail from FR 85 near Flagpole Knob down to Hone Quarry Picnic Area. 7 miles. Downhill and easy. We saw lots of interesting plants there when we did this a few years back. Meet at Turner Ashby High School in Bridgewater at 9:00 a.m. or Hone Quarry Picnic Area at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Jean Fraser, jeancfraser@yahoo.com
- ❖ **July 14** Annual Butterfly Count in the SNP. This year our VNPS chapter member Mike Smith is coordinating. If interested contact michael_g_smith@merck.com
- ❖ The VNPS 2012 Annual Meeting will be held September 14-16, 2012 in Richmond, Virginia at Wyndham Virginia Crossings, a lovely facility overlooking the site of the Civil War Battle of Yellow Tavern. Rooms are limited; there is no block of rooms saved. You're encouraged to make your reservations as soon as possible directly with Wyndham to receive our special room rates. Rates are per room (plus tax), not per person, and include buffet breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday: Single \$109.00, double \$119.00 (incl. 2 breakfasts), triple \$129.00, quad \$149.00. Please give Wyndham the event name "Virginia Native Plant Society Rate Quote" when making your reservation. Call 1-888-444-6553 (toll free) or use this [link](#).

Recent Chapter Activities

May 12 Reddish Knob Wildflower Excursion. The Reddish Knob roadside wildflower event was held Saturday May 12 as a joint venture with the EJC Arboretum at JMU and the Shenandoah chapter of VNPS. This is the third consecutive year for this event.

Great weather, cool and sunny. We started at Hone Quarry with a brown bag lunch and get acquainted session and made four stops up the mountain. We had 13 participants: 3 from Winchester, 1 from Shenandoah County, 1 from Montgomery County MD, 2 from Augusta County, 6 from the local area. One person got the info from the Arboretum web site. Two got the info from a "What to do in Harrisonburg" web site. One got word of mouth info and the rest were from the VNPS.

The weather was super as were the blooms. We started with lunch at 12:30 and finished at about 4:30.

Some notable blooms:

Dutchman's Pipe accompanied by a pipe vine swallowtail

Painted trillium

Pink lady slipper

Fetter bush on the wane

Birds foot violet

Canada mayflower

Dog Violet

Lupine

Pink Azalea

Mt laurel

Whorled loosestrife

and many more.

May 17 Long Run Road. Joe Sharrer and Mike Seth went along Long Run Road to see what's blooming. We may go back there later in the summer as the roadside a great place to see plants. The Blue Ridge brood of the 17-year cicadas had hatched and were making quite a noise.

May 24. Wavy Leaf Basket grass removal. Shenandoah National Park Habitat Defenders Program Site near Elkton. Last year, Shenandoah Chapter adopted a site in Shenandoah National Park to help control wavy leaf basket grass.

Chris Bowlen, Jerry Hopkins and Mike Seth went to our site new Swift Run Gap. We looked and looked and saw lots of invasives but no wavy leaf basket grass. Either it was been eradicated, or we just could find any. We will need to go back earlier next year when the plants are more visible. We then walked to a nearby cemetery in the Park boundary where it was believed to have been first introduced as found and removed several small patches.

This will an annual commitment to once or twice a year, 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 in the Park. 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.

The *Flora of Virginia* is, of last report, set to be out in December. It will describe more than 3,500 plant species in 200 families, accompanied by 1,400 captioned, scaled, and botanically accurate illustrations.

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

Chapter Officers

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