



Shenandoah Chapter *Virginia Native Plant Society* *September 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.

Next Meeting: September 13, Late Summer/Early Autumn Nature Walk Tilghman Road.

We will meet at 4pm at the junction of Briery Branch and Tilghman Road for a leisurely stroll. There should be a lot of flowers (and some mushrooms) in bloom.

For information contact Joe Sharrer 540 434 8494 joes41@comcast.net

Upcoming Events

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).

Wild Virginia in search of the Tallest Tree in Virginia

September 23 Sunday

The Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area in the George Washington National Forest contains some of the largest trees in the state of Virginia. Enormous pines, oaks and poplars can be found there. It should come as no surprise that the tallest tree in the state, a 189 foot tall Eastern White Pine, is located in this wilderness area.

Master Naturalist John Holden will lead us on our quest to find this giant white pine. It is rumored that from the ground, you can't even see the top of the tree in the upper canopy. Along the way, we will observe other magnificent trees of several species. This is a level but challenging hike of about 4 miles with numerous crossings of Ramsey's Draft. John reports that the bear population in Ramsey's Draft is strong this year and Bald Eagles have been recently noticed nesting on a nearby ridge.

Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Long pants are recommended due to stinging nettles and poison ivy along the trail. Sturdy trail shoes or boots are a must. Be prepared to get your feet wet in case water levels are near or above normal. Leaving an extra pair of dry socks and shoes in the car is suggested.

Since we will be in a federally designated wilderness area, group size is limited to 10 participants. Early registration is advised. Please contact Ron Fandetti at fanjet50@gmail.com or (401) 529-8025

JMU Arboretum Fall Plant Sale

September 28 & 29, 2012, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Fall is a great time to plant! Temperatures moderate and soil holds warmth allowing for rapid root

development. Perennials, shrubs and trees planted in the fall establish to be ready for a spring bloom that will burst into enviable color! Online ordering begins September 10th

Shenandoah National Park Invasive Plant Removal

September 29

As part of the National Public Lands Day there will be a invasive plants removal at Big Meadows.

For more information:

Cindy Blugerman

Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator

Shenandoah National Park (SHEN)

3655 U.S. Highway 211 East

Luray, VA 22835

540-999-3500 ext. 3437

Recent Chapter Activities

June 10 Sunday Annual Picnic/walk Shenandoah National Park South River Picnic Area. Twenty folks joined us on this perfect early summer day. Lunch was at one, there was really good food. We had a nice easy slow walk in the area. Most stayed the afternoon and left shortly before six. There was only one small misadventure when a member of our chapter was scolded for picking garlic mustard by a park ranger who apparently did not understand the concept of invasive plant removal.

If you have announcements, articles or reviews for the newsletter (no matter how short), please contact Elaine Smith antigone16@comcast.net

Chapter Officers

President	vacant		
Vice President	Michael Seth	540-438-1301	sethmj@jmu.edu
Treasurer	Joe Sharrer	540-434-8494	joes41@comcast.net
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