



Shenandoah Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
March 2014
Shenandoah Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
March 2014

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 Chapter Events

- ❖ **Tuesday March 25 Deep Run Ponds Garlic Mustard Removal.** 10 am to 2 pm. We will meet at the Ponds. For more information contact Chris Bowlen bowlenchris@comcast.net (540) 289 6801
- ❖ **Saturday April 12 Plant Sale Earth Day in Staunton**
- ❖ **Saturday May 3 Plant Sale Riverfest Waynesboro**
- ❖ **Thursday May 15 Swift Run Gap SNP Wavy leaf basket grass removal** 9:00 to 12:00 noon
- ❖ **Sunday June 8 Annual Picnic** Place and time TBA

Other Events:

- ❖ **Saturday March 1 *Taking the Heat: A Look at Plants and Climatic Change.*** University of Richmond, Jepson Hall. 9:15 am to 3:30 pm. Sponsored by the Virginia Native Plant Society. Our speakers will present research on native plant communities and climate change: how plants are being used to study climate change and how plants are changing before our eyes as atmospheric carbon, temperature, and water level rise, and weather patterns change. We have secured a location that will allow more participants this year; but this workshop typically fills very quickly. The full line up of speakers and the registration information are available at vnps.org.
- ❖ **Tuesday March 4 The Frontier Culture Museum's 2014 Winter Lecture series:** Harmony J. Dalglish – “The Ecology of American Chestnut Restoration.” Dairy Barn Lecture Hall 7pm.
- ❖ **Tuesday March 11, 2014 at 7:00pm The Frontier Culture Museum's 2014 Winter Lecture series** Ralph Lutts – “Chestnut Trade on the Blue Ridge of Southwest Virginia.” Dairy Barn Lecture Hall 7pm.
- ❖ **Sunday March 15 Geology Hike: Austin-Mtn-Madison Run Fire Road.** 8 miles. We will look at any plants as well. Meet at Grottoes Food Lion at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Malcolm Cameron, (540) 234 6273 malcomcameron@gmail.com
- ❖ **Wednesday March 26 “Birds of the Arboretum”** Talk by Diane Lepkowski of the Rockingham Bird Club. Noon to 1:30. Frances Plecker Education Center JMU Arboretum
- ❖ **Saturday March 29 2014 Annual Seminar for Gardening in the Northern Neck**
“Good Beginnings for Great Gardens” White Stone, VA Registration: \$25
A fabulous line-up of speakers is on the ticket for the 21st Annual Seminar for Gardening in the Northern Neck! In addition to speakers there will be vendors and book sales to help you onward in your gardening journey. Registration forms will be available on February 2 at www.nnmg.org
Speakers will include:
Bryce Lane is an award winning instructor at N. C. State University and the host of a weekly educational TV show that introduces viewers to the science behind gardening. Bryce's topic will be “If You Build It, They Will Come: Understanding and Improving Garden Soils”

Denise Greene, owner of Sassafras Farm in Hayes, will talk about where to find native plants, what to look for when buying natives, and how to plant and manage natives in her talk “Landscaping with Natives.”

Holly Shimizu, Executive Director of the US Botanic Garden in Washington. DC since 2000 will speak on “Influences and Inspirations for Today’s Sustainable Garden”

Janet Pawlukiewicz, representing the Northern Neck chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will discuss their program “Plant NNK Natives: Go Native, Grow Native.”

- ❖ **May 10 Saturday Wildflower Tournament.** More information on this event will be available in the next newsletter or contact Chip Brown cbrown2001@gmail.com

Annual State Meeting

VNPS 2014 Annual Meeting – Virginia Beach Oceanfront

Date/Time October 17, 2014 until October 19, 2014

12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Get this on your calendar now so you don’t miss a fantastic meeting with field trips you will remember all your life! The meeting is being held in October this year because of the coastal location for it – hurricanes will not stop the show!

Hosted by the South Hampton Roads Chapter, the tentative line of trips includes:

First Landing State Park, False Cape State Park, Great Dismal Swamp, Zuni Pine Barrens, with a Big Trees expert, The Hermitage, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Northwest River Park...and more! Come early and stay late for a fun filled fall vacation.

Details to follow. Contact: Steve Stasulis (757) 486-5485

Older Trees fight Global Warming better than Younger ones

February 10, 2014

by Atula

BREAKTHROUGH: Old trees have much to give to the world. Flowers, fruits, shade, wisdom and as new research points out – respite from the ill effects of global warming. According to an international group of scientists led by Dr. Nate Stephenson of the US Geological Survey, most tree species grow much faster as they age and this in turn helps in capturing much more carbon from the atmosphere than younger trees.



- Trees do not Age like Humans

In human beings after adolescence, no more true growth occurs (an increase in cell number) and new cells are solely used for regeneration purposes. But according to a research published in the Journal Nature, growth in old trees increases as they age and therefore the ability to sequester carbon from the atmosphere increases too, reducing the effects of climate change.

The researchers observed 673,046 individual trees belonging to 403 tropical and temperate species some of which were more than 80 years old. They found that rather than slowing down growth after a certain age, these trees were growing much more than younger trees affectively capturing more carbon.

“Rather than slowing down or ceasing growth and carbon uptake, as we previously assumed, most of the oldest trees in forests around the world actually grow faster, taking up more carbon. A large tree may put on weight equivalent to an entire small tree in a year,” said co-author Dr Richard Condit from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Dr. Stephenson adds that this extraordinary phenomenon is not limited to certain species,

“Extraordinary growth of some species, such as Australian mountain ash – also known as eucalyptus – (Eucalyptus regnans), and the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) is not limited to a few species,” Dr Stephenson said. “Rather, rapid growth in giant trees is the global norm and can exceed 600 kg per year in the largest individuals. In human terms, it is as if our growth just keeps accelerating after adolescence, instead of slowing down. By that measure, humans could weigh half a ton by middle age, and well over a ton at retirement.”

The report includes studies from the Pacific Northwest. One team of scientists worked in forest plots – some created as early as the 1930s – at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest east of Eugene and Mount Rainier National Park. Researchers measured growth in Douglas-fir, western hemlock, Sitka spruce, western red cedar and silver fir.

Another team in Africa established a forest research site in Cameroon in 1996. They measured growth in about 495 tree species.

“This report would not have been possible without long-term records of individual tree growth. It was remarkable how we were able to examine this question on a global level, thanks to the sustained efforts of many programs and individuals,” added co-author Dr. Mark Harmon of Oregon State University.

The study also found though that while individual trees grew more as they aged, when it came to a stand of trees, some of them died eventually reducing the overall impact of their group’s carbon capture. Importantly, the research shows how much more valuable old trees are in the modern world, with increasing greenhouse gases being exhaled into the atmosphere. Instead of axing an ancient tree to widen roads and create more space for urban buildings, it is surely wiser to let these old mates grow and keep absorbing the foul gases for our own benefit.

Other News

Welcome Mike Smith to our Chapter’s Board!

What are a Native Plants?

According to the Flora of Virginia they are defined as those found in Virginia at the time of the first European contact (sixteenth century). According to the Flora there are about 3200 species and recognized subspecies of native vascular plants divided into 189 plant families.

If you have announcements, articles or reviews, please contact Elaine Smith antigone16@comcast.net