



Shenandoah Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society April 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

- ❖ **Thursday April 10.** Annual Spring Wildflower Walk. This is our annual event but we have not yet decided where and when we usually meet early in the evening to have plenty of light. Time, place TBA and contact Michael Seth sethmj@jmu.edu.
- ❖ **Saturday April 12** Plant Sale Earth Day in Staunton. Staunton Farmers' Market 9:00-12:00. Shenandoah Chapter Plant Sale. We are looking for donations of pots, native plants and/or your time. If you are interested in supporting this annual event, please contact Anneli Tattersall annelitatt@yahoo.com for details. Proceeds will benefit the *Flora of Virginia Project*.
- ❖ **Saturday April 19** Wildflower Walk Big Levels area in search of the Swamp Pink. We will be exploring previously known sites for Swamp pink in the Big Levels area of Augusta County. Mo Stevens discovered these plants during the 1980's. Meet at McDonalds parking lot at the entrance to the Town Center @9am located just south of the Stuart's Draft exit off of I64. Meeting time is 9am. Bring a light lunch and water. Old shoes or boots are suggested. Easy walking of several miles is expected. Contact: Mike Smith 540-298-1913, home 540-742-3451
- ❖ **Saturday April 26** JMU Arboretum Tour. One hour walk beginning at 10:00 am.
- ❖ **Saturday May 3** Plant Sale Riverfest Waynesboro. Constitution Park 10am to 4:30 pm.
- ❖ **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:

Wednesday April 16 and Thursday April 17 The Wild and Scenic Film Festival

The World and Scenic Film Festival will be shown in Charlottesville Wednesday April 16 at 7:30 in the Dickinson Theatre at PVCC and in Staunton Thursday April 17 at 7 in the Visualite. Different films at each location. Tickets are \$10 at the door or online at wildvirginia.org. Wild Virginia will be sponsoring the film festival in Harrisonburg again in October.

Saturday April 19 and Tuesday 22. FLORA of VIRGINIA SPRING WORKSHOPS

This spring Marion Lobstein will be offering several workshops on using the *Flora of Virginia* to identify plants. Prince William Wildflower Society is sponsoring two one-day workshops: "A Beginner's Introduction to Using the *Flora of Virginia*." In each workshop, Marion will overview the layout of the *Flora* and give tips on recognizing plant



families and using dichotomous (identification) keys in the *Flora*. This workshop is an easy way to begin to know and use your *Flora*.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Tues, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Manassas National Battlefield Park Stuart's Hill Center (Park HQ) Training Room. If you have a copy of the *Flora of Virginia*, please bring it but participants can also share copies. Oculars or magnifiers will be available to borrow or purchase at a reasonable cost. The cost of the workshop is free for VNPS members or the cost of a membership for non-members. Registration is encouraged. To register or for more details, please call Marion Lobstein at (703) 622-0676 or email her at mblobstein@earthlink.net

A two-session workshop at Blandy Experimental Farm: lecture/lab and field sessions covering use of the new *Flora of Virginia* and its keys; recognizing plant families; and recent changes in taxonomy will be held on consecutive Fridays, April 18 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is FOSA (Foundation of the State Arboretum) members \$30; nonmembers \$35. Please register online at <http://blandy.virginia.edu/our-foundation/online-payments> or you may call (540) 837-1758 ext. 224.

Please contact Marion Lobstein for more details or questions about the workshops: mblobstein@earthlink.net or call (703) 622-0676. For any of these workshops, you may use the first printing of the *Flora of Virginia* or the 2nd printing with corrections. The 2nd printing is slightly less thick and a bit lighter than the first printing, but has the same information and page numbers. It may be ordered from BRIT Press or visit the *Flora of Virginia* website Floraofvirginia.org for a direct link and ordering information.

Saturday April 26 Wildflower Hike. Apple Orchard Mt to Petites Gap. 7.3 miles with a 3.4 mile side trip to Apple Orchard Mt as an option for faster hikers. Start at BRPMP 78.4 and end at BRPMP 71.0 Possible short bushwhacks in search of wildflowers. This will be an all day hike with supper in Buena Vista. Meet at the AP parking lot on 511 at 10pm.

Saturday May 10 Wildflower Tournament.

The 2014 Shenandoah Wildflower Walks and Tournament will be held May 10th and includes four hikes on trails in the George Washington National Forest. Join us for a day of exploring the amazing diversity of life found on Shenandoah Mountain, identified as an "outstanding ecological core" area by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program and a "biodiversity hotspot" by The Nature Conservancy. These light hikes lead by Virginia Master Naturalists and other knowledgeable wildflower resource people provide an opportunity to see and photograph some beautiful wildflowers and learn more about this special place. Free registration is required by May 8 at the Wildflower Tournament link at headwatersmn.org

The 2014 Native Plants in the Landscape Conference at Millersville University, in Millersville, PA. Speakers for the conference include Eric Toensmeier, Marcus de la Fleur, Benjamin Vogt, Candy DeBerry, Sabrena Schweyer and many others.

Inspirational fieldtrips, educational workshops, engaging topics of concern, native plants and book sale, and native plant merchandise – this is a conference you don't want to miss. Continuing education credits are available for LACES, APLD, Delaware Certified Horticulturist, Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist, New York CNLP, and Maryland CPH.

Plant and Book Sale will be open to the public on Friday, June 6, 2014 from 4:30-8:30pm and on Saturday, June 7, 2014 from 8:30am until 1:00pm.

To view the conference brochure or to register, visit www.MillersvilleNativePlants.org. For more information call (717) 871-2189 or email nativeplantsatMU@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

Recent Activities

Geology Walk Sunday March 16 in Madison Run, SNP was attended by several chapter members including Mark and Betty Gatewood and Mike Seth. We learned about the various rock formations of the Blue Ridge, rocks that are rich in iron, manganese and other minerals which help account for the rich variety of plant species in the area. Plant diversity diminishes somewhat on the less mineral rich soils of the Alleghenies on the west side of the valley and in the Massanutten range. We also spotted a dwarf cinquefoil, the first native wildflower for some us (excluding skunk cabbages).

March 24 Garlic Mustard Pull-Up at Deep Run Ponds.

Garlic Mustard Removal Deep Run Ponds

Three volunteers, Bea Woody, Anna and Chris Bowlen successfully beat the snow by moving the workday to Monday. Every year the amount of garlic mustard that needs to be pulled gets smaller so our efforts are paying off. As a result, we have a chance to look at other things. We found three red backed salamanders and one lonely *Houstonia caerulea* (common bluet) in bloom.

Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia

In the last newsletter it was mentioned that 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.

Those are the plants we seek to protect. Then there are the non-native invasive plant species which we seek to eradicate or control. Alien plants also known as exotic, non-native, or nonindigenous plants, are species intentionally or accidentally introduced by human activity into a region in which they did not evolve. Many alien species are well known and economically important in agriculture and horticulture, such as wheat, soybeans, and tulips. Alien species, whether plant or animal, often do not become established outside of cultivation and, if they do, they usually have few impacts on natural communities.

Invasive alien plants, however, escape cultivation and become agricultural pests, infest lawns as weeds, displace native plant species, reduce wildlife habitat, and alter ecosystem processes. Across the country and around the world, invasive alien plants and animals have become one of the most serious threats to native species, natural communities, and ecosystem processes. They also exact a costly toll from human economies that depend on resources and services provided by healthy ecosystems. Examples include destruction of vast areas of western rangelands, clogging of important waterways, and increased costs in maintaining open powerline rights-of-way.

Of the 4,000 alien plant species introduced to the United States that have escaped cultivation, approximately 400 are serious invaders. Half this total was introduced for horticultural uses. Others arrived accidentally in seed mixes, packaging materials, ships ballast, and by other means. Invasive plants now infest more than 100 million acres. One study estimated that from 1901 to 1991, economic losses in the U.S. caused by 15 invasive plant species (not including agricultural weeds) were \$603 million (Office of Technology Assessment, 1993). The Virginia Department of Conservation's Division of Natural Heritage and the Virginia Native Plant Society have identified 115 invasive alien plant species that threaten or potentially threaten natural areas, parks, and other protected lands in Virginia. The list is found on the [DCR website](#).

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