



Shenandoah Chapter *Virginia Native Plant Society* *March 2015*

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:

Saturday April 18 Shenandoah Chapter Native Plant Sale

Staunton Earth Day 9-12.

We always sell a lot of plants, and thereby introduce more folks to the joy of gardening in a way that supports the environment. We have two plant sales, this one and in Waynesboro on May 2 (see below).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

****Donate extra plants from your gardens.** We will pot them up in advance of the sale, and can even pick them up from you if necessary.

****Sign up to work for a few hours the day of the sale,** sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm. It is great fun!

CONTACT: Anneli Tattersall at 540-248-0932, annelitatt@yahoo.com, or Eleanor Baker, 443-797-2824, eleanorbaker24@yahoo.com.

Saturday May 2 Shenandoah Chapter Native Plant Sale

Riverfest Waynesboro 10-12

CONTACT: Anneli Tattersall at 540-248-0932, annelitatt@yahoo.com, or Eleanor Baker, 443-797-2824, eleanorbaker24@yahoo.com.

Wildflower Hikes. There will be two wildflower hikes in April and early May (a long and a short) dates and details to be announced in the April newsletter.

Other Activities

Saturday February 28 & Saturday March 7, JMU Arboretum Winter Children's Art Workshop,

Both Saturdays from 1:00 to 3:30pm in the Frances Plecker Education Center (FPEC), with facilitator artist Jewel Yoder Hertzler.

Sunday March 1 Atlantic Coast Pipeline Field Tour Wild Virginia 8:00-5:00 pm.

Come learn about the proposed route through the George Washington National Forest. Meet landowners near the forest who will be impacted, learn about the unique geology of this area, and see the just some of the special places threatened by the pipeline. The tour includes a short, flat 30 minute hike to stretch your legs mid-day. This outing is limited to 15 people, so please reserve your spot early. If the outing is full - please sign up below and we'll contact you if a space opens on our waitlist. We have planned stops along the route from Churchville to Confederate Breastworks. Come see what will happen if Dominion's plans are realized.

For more info www.wildvirginia.org

Saturday March 7 2015 VNPS Workshop, A Forest Ramble: Interaction and Diversity

9:15am-3:30 pm Jepson Hall Auditorium Ryland Circle, University of Richmond

Please bring your lunch

For more information: <http://vnps.org/events/2015-vnps-workshop-forest-ramble-interaction-diversity/>

Wednesday March 18 Wild Virginia Forest Watch and Training

Staunton Public Library Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

What are the threats to our forests? How can you stop them?

Wild Virginia is proud to offer an informative discussion of “how’s” and “whys” of forest plans and projects. Learn about the new George Washington National Forest Plan and how it relates to major work on the ground like the Cowpasture Project.

For more info www.wildvirginia.org

March, 2015, Spring Children's Art Workshop, date to be announced online approximately a month ahead, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, in the Frances Plecker Education Center, (FPEC). The Tues, Wed, and Thurs workshop offers children's education on plant identification as well as basic botanical drawing, all materials included in a \$35 cover charge. Advance online registration needed.

Sunday, March 22, 2 pm PIEDMONT CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 2015 Winter Speaker Series Tri-County Feeds

Conference Room, 7408 John Marshall Hwy, Marshall, VA 20115 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

www.vnps.org <http://vnps.org/wp/piedmont> Send inquiries to piedmontvnps@gmail.com

Sunday, March 22, 2 pm

Join Marion Blois Lobstein...

Our Spring Wildflowers and Their Western U.S. Relatives

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) *by M.Lobstein*

Marion is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Northern Virginia Community College, member of both Piedmont and Prince William Chapters VNPS, and Vice-President of Flora of Virginia Project. She still volunteers for workshops and walks at the State Arboretum of Virginia.

All lectures are free. Refreshments provided

Wednesday March 25, 2015, Birding Workshop, JMU Arboretum Wednesday, noon-1:00 pm in the FPEC. In partnership with the Rockingham Bird Club, an avifauna notable and photographer of Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley avian species Diane Lepkowski, lectures on songbirds to raptors, giving an annual spring lecture and forum discussion in the *FPEC. This workshop partners with guided birding trail walks in April or May. Call 540-568-3194

Saturday April 25 Shenandoah Wildflower Walks and Photo Tournament

See the Headwaters Master Naturalist Web site for more announcements and free registration:

<http://headwatersmn.org/>

ALERT – ALERT- ALERT!!!

The Senate and House Conferees on this year's budget bills (SB 800; HB 1400) have been appointed (see below). We need all Virginia Native Plant Society members who have a Senator or a Delegate who is one of the budget bill conferees to contact them as soon as possible with the following message:

Please support the Senate bill's provision of \$500,000 for the Natural Heritage Program. This funding is desperately needed to manage Virginia's Natural Area Preserve System which protects Virginia's spectacular biodiversity. Since 2002, the number of Natural Heritage Program staff to manage this system has fallen to 40 from a high of 48 while the number of Natural Area Preserves in Virginia has doubled. Fully \$3.1 million is actually needed, but \$500,000 will help. Please ensure that all of the \$500,000 in the Senate bill is included in the final, conference bill. Thank you.

Invasive Plant of the Month: Multiflora Rose

Rosa multiflora Thunb. ex Murr. Rose family (Rosaceae). Multiflora Rose or *Rosa multiflora* (Latin for multiflora rose) is a non-native multi-stemmed shrub, sometimes climbing vine, with arching stems and recurved thorns. Its leaves are divided into five to eleven sharply toothed leaflets; leaf stalks with fringed stipules (paired wing-like structures). It blooms during May to June with clusters of showy, fragrant, white to pinkish, 1 in. wide flowers. The fruits are small and bright red and appear in the summer; the fruits or rose hips remain on the plant through the winter.

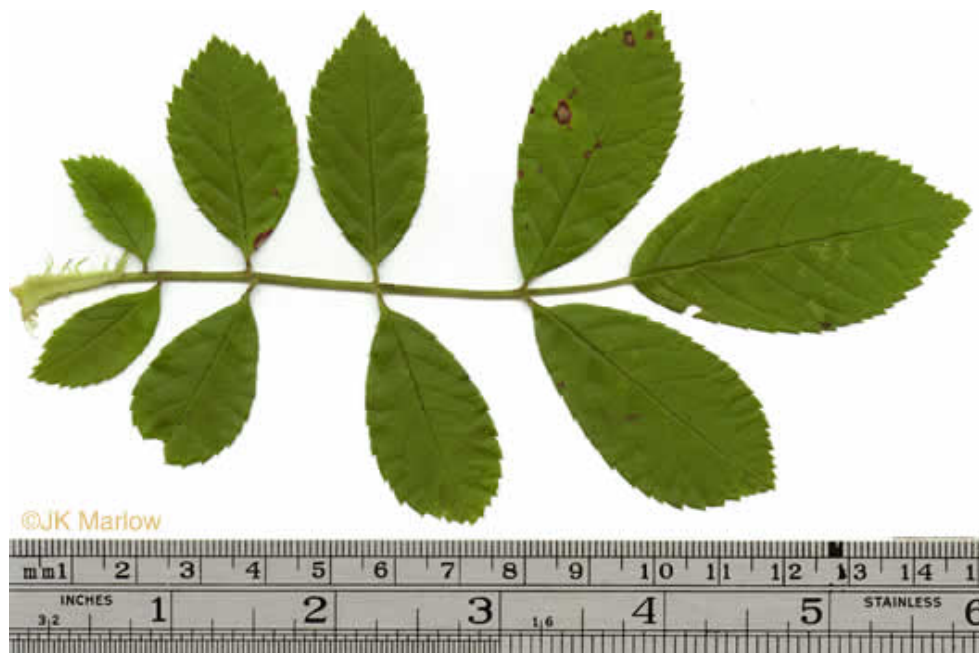
Multiflora Rose is native to China, Japan and Korea-where it is very common along mountain trails. Beginning in the 1930s, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service promoted it for use in erosion control and as “living fences” to confine livestock (big mistake). State conservation departments recommended multiflora rose as cover for wildlife. More recently, it has been planted in highway median strips to serve as crash barriers and reduce automobile headlight glare. Its tenacious growth habit was eventually recognized as a problem on pastures and unplowed lands, where it disrupted cattle grazing, and, more recently, as a pest of natural ecosystems. It has been designated in many states as noxious weed including here in Virginia. It is a real problem in parts of the Shenandoah National Park. We trail maintainers spent a lot of time pulling it up by its roots.

An extremely hardy plant, multiflora rose tolerates a wide range of soil, moisture and light conditions and is able to invade fields, forests, prairies, some wetlands and many other habitats. It grows aggressively and produces large numbers of fruits (hips) that are eaten and dispersed by a variety of birds. Dense thickets of multiflora rose exclude most native shrubs and herbs from establishing and may be detrimental to nesting of native birds. It reproduces by seed and by forming new plants from the tips of arching canes that can root where they contact the ground. An average plant produces an estimated one million seeds per year, which remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years.

Effective control of multiflora is possible using chemical, manual, or mechanical means or, preferably, a combination. We have had success in controlling it near McCormick Gap by pulling it out by the roots. Frequent, repeated cutting or mowing at the rate of three to six times per growing season, for two to four years, has been shown to be very effective. In high-quality natural communities, cutting of individual plants may be preferable to minimize habitat disturbance. Because of the long-lived stores of seed in the soil, follow-up treatments are necessary. Application of a systemic glyphosate-based herbicide to freshly cut stems, to regrowth, or to foliage is very effective, especially if done late in the growing. Two naturally-occurring controls affect multiflora rose to some extent. A native virus (rose-rosette

disease) spread by a tiny native mite impedes stem growth and a non-native seed-infesting wasp, the European rose chalcid, causes damage to the seeds.

Multiflora rose differs from our native Carolina rose (*Rosa Carolina*-not sure what this means in Latin) also known as Pasture rose by the comb-like hairs on the stipules which our native rose does not have, by its upright arching stems and by the fact that it has so many flowers per stem- hence its name.



Multiflora rose with the diagnostic hairy stipule. Source: Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States, Working Draft of 30 November 2012, by Alan S. Weakley, University of North Carolina Herbarium (NCU)

Plant Trivia

As mentioned in the last newsletter, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 2006 there are 258,000 species of flowering plants (Magnoliophyta) in the world. They are divided into approximately 420 families. The ten largest in terms of numbers of species are:

1. Asteraceae (aster family) with 22,750 species
2. Orchidaceae (orchid family) with 21,950
3. Fabaceae (bean family) with 19,400 species
4. Rubiaceae (madder family) with 13,150
5. Poaceae or Gramineae (grass family) 10,035
6. Lamiaceae or Labiatae (mint family) 7,175
7. Euphorbiaceae (spurge family) 5,735
8. Melastomataceae (melastome family) 5,005
9. Myrtaceae (myrtle family) 4,625
10. Apocynaceae (dogbane family) 4,555

All found in our state. Melastome family is mainly tropical but is represented by the *Rhexia* (Meadow Beauty) genus. Myrtle family is not native to Virginia. The other eight families are well represented in the state.

Please send any articles or announcements to Elaine Smith, antigone16@comcast.net.