



# *Shenandoah Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society March 2016*

## **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 29 Early Spring Wildflower Walk.** For time and place contact Michael Seth [sethmj@jmu.edu](mailto:sethmj@jmu.edu)

**Plant Surveys along Proposed Pipeline Route.** Time, date, location TBA. See below.

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Saturday March 5 Lexington Horticultural Symposiums GROW 2016: A Celebration of Native Plants**

A Consortium of Rockbridge County Horticultural Groups, PO Box 123, Lexington, VA 24450

Native plants are a gardener's delight: they are adapted to local soils and climate, allow landscapes to coexist with nature, provide food and shelter for wildlife and are easy to grow! Join us in Lexington VA on March 5, 2016 for Grow 2016: A Celebration of Native Plants to learn how indigenous plants can be included into home landscapes. The day long symposium will feature three nationally known plantsmen and lecturers: Rick Darke, coauthor (with Doug Tallamy) of *Living Landscapes: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*; Cole Burrell, naturalist, landscape designer and author of *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*; and James Gagliardi, horticulturist in charge of the habitat gardens at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

Proceeds will benefit Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden, [www.boxerwood.org](http://www.boxerwood.org)

The symposium will be held at VMI's Marshall Hall, Center for Leadership and Ethics, Lexington VA

Limited registration is now open at [grow2016.com](http://grow2016.com)

Contact: Faith Vosburgh, Horticulturist, Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden, 963 Ross Rd. Lexington, VA 24450 540-463-2697 [faith@boxerwood.org](mailto:faith@boxerwood.org)

### **Saturday March 12 VNPS Winter Workshop**

#### **Plants and Their Friends: Exploring Partnerships Above and Below Ground**

#### **University of Richmond**

28 Westhampton Road - Richmond

Time: *All Day*

Register [here](#).

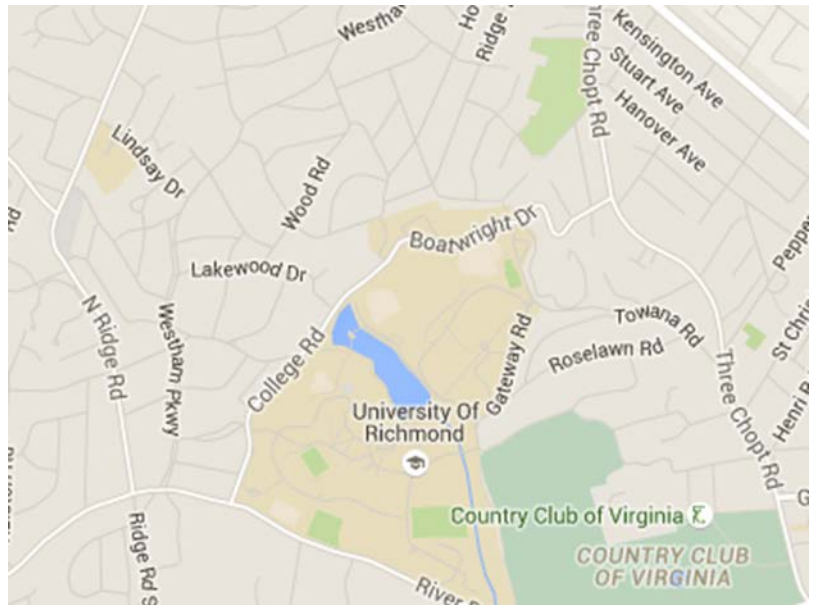
#### Speakers and Topics:

Gary Krupnick, Ph.D., Botanist and head of the Plant Conservation Unit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History: A Natural History Approach to Protecting Pollinators

Pollinators are critical to our Nation's economy, food security, and environmental health. But many pollinators are in serious decline. This presentation will provide insight into the National Strategy for Pollinator Health and the current efforts at reducing the continued loss of pollinators.

Kal Ivanov, Ph.D., Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Virginia Museum of Natural History: The Astonishing World of Ant-plant Symbioses

This presentation will offer an overview of the multi-faceted interactions between two of the most dominant and charismatic terrestrial groups – flowering plants and ants. Ant-plant interactions have evolved across the globe ranging from herbivory to highly sophisticated defensive and dispersal mutualisms. One such remarkable interaction, known as myrmecochory, occurs in the temperate forests of eastern North America and involves a number of familiar spring flowers such as trilliums and violets.



*Yellow Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium parviflorum). Photo by Maria Mantas, Flathead National Forest.*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/cypripedium/>

Paulette W. Royt, Ph.D., Microbiologist, retired from the Biology Department at George Mason University: Plant Roots and Their Fungal Partners

Mycorrhiza is the symbiotic relationship between some soil fungi and plant roots. This association will be described as will the diversity of the mycorrhizal fungi, and the contributions the mycorrhizae make to ecosystem diversity.

Dennis Whigham, Ph.D., Senior Botanist at the Smithsonian Ecological Research Center and Founding Director of the North American Orchid Conservation Center  
Native Orchids: Interactions with Fungi and Challenges for Orchid Conservation

The study of interactions between orchids and fungi have led in new and exciting directions. This presentation will offer the results of recent research on orchid-fungus relationships and the effort to conserve the genetic diversity of native orchids using this information.

**Tuesday March 15 “The Delights and Challenges of Owning One of Virginia’s Natural Area Preserves.”** The Headwaters Chapter of the VA Master Naturalists is inviting VNPS members to attend a lecture by Marcia Mabee.

Marcia will tell us how she and her husband came to purchase and conserve Naked Mountain, and will talk about the ecological features, including Torrey’s mountain mint and thousands of shooting stars, which make the area so special.

She will also discuss some of the challenges that she has faced, such as invasive plants, rattlesnakes, and visiting bears. Marcia's presentation is the story of how the Naked Mountain Natural Area Preserve came to be and the discoveries and obligations inherent within the preserve that continue to this day.

See more [here](#).

Details: March 15, 2016 3-4:30pm at the North River Branch of Massanutten Regional Library

118 Mt. Crawford Ave, Bridgewater VA. 22812

### **Wednesday March 16 Forest Defense: North Shenandoah Restoration and Management Project**

Join us on March 16th, 2016 from 9am to 2pm in Rockingham County for the beginning of the Forest Service's North Shenandoah Restoration and Management Project on National Forest Systems lands north of Highway 33 on the North River Ranger District, within Rockingham County, Virginia and Pendleton County, West Virginia. This event is open to the public and is a great opportunity to learn about this new project.

"This large, landscape scale project of approximately 100,000 acres will consider integrated management opportunities for improving watershed conditions, vegetation conditions, terrestrial and aquatic species habitats and recreation values and uses for the next ten years. The objective is to advance the natural resource goals for the area as identified in the 2014 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest.

The North Shenandoah project will be developed in collaboration with a diverse group of individuals, organizations, local government and partners, similar to the recent Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management project on the Warm Springs and James River Ranger Districts. To those who may not be familiar with this project, this meeting will be great opportunity to discuss the existing conditions and uses in the area and consider potential management opportunities."

For more information contact: [info@wildvirginia.org](mailto:info@wildvirginia.org)

**Saturday March 19. Geology Hike; Old Rag Fire Rd.-Indian Run Trail-Corbin Cabin in SNP. Joint hike with C'ville Chapter.** Approx. 6 miles, moderate with shuttle; 1400 ft. elev. drop, then gain. Learn the geologic history of the Shenandoah Nat. Park area; see 4 different igneous or metamorphic formations, cascading streams and more. Good views of Old Rag. Option to extend by approx. 4 mi. along AT past Stony Man for a loop vs. shuttle. Meet at Elkton Food Lion, Route 33 at 9:30 or at Swift Run Entrance at 10:00. Leader: Malcolm Cameron, [malcolmgcameron@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmgcameron@gmail.com), (540) 234-6273.

**Wednesday March 30 7:00 pm The Wild and Scenic Film Festival Harrisonburg** brings together a selection of films that tell stories about our planet, our beautiful and precious wildlands, and the people of the communities who love them, play in them and defend them. They open our eyes and hearts to fantastic experiences in remarkable places. They inspire a sense of wonder, beckon us towards action, highlight issues, and provide solutions.

Location: Court Square Theater

41 Court Square

Harrisonburg, VA

For tickets contact: [info@wildvirginia.org](mailto:info@wildvirginia.org)

**Saturday April 2 Bird Walk in Hillendale Park. Sierra Club contact: Ralph Grove - 540-478-3677**  
[ralph.grove@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.grove@gmail.com)

**Sunday April 10 7:00pm Wild and Scenic Film Festival Staunton**

See description for Wild and Scenic Film Festival Harrisonburg

Visulite Cinema

12 N Augusta Street

Staunton, VA

## **Friday-Saturday April 15-16**

If you are interested in the plants that are an integral part of Virginia's ecosystems but have been intimidated by identifying and remembering those plants, this workshop is for you. Two days and eight hours with Marion and Sally will get you started on a wonderful journey into a deeper appreciation for the plants you see around you every day.

Workshop Plant Identification and Introduction to the Flora of Virginia, Harrisonburg VA

Time: Two day class 4 hours details coming by February 29

Instructor: Marion Lobstein, Botanist and Professor Emeritus NVCC

Contact information: [mblobstein@earthlink.net](mailto:mblobstein@earthlink.net); 703 622-0676)

Assistant: Sally Anderson, Botanist and former VNPS president

Location: Music Room, Lucy F. Sims Center, 620 Simms Ave, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Major areas of focus:

Overview of Flora of Virginia and its use in plant identification

Characteristics of major plant families that will be encountered during plant surveys such as field "weeds," wildflowers, and grasses.

Proper plant collecting and record keeping in your survey fieldwork

Use of the Flora of Virginia in identifying specimens collected

Contact [Chris Bowlen](#) 540-289-6801 to save a spot. Class size is limited to 15.

## **The New Proposed Route for the Atlantic Coast-Dominion Pipeline**

The new Atlantic Coast Pipeline route bypasses Cheat Mountain and goes around the south end of the 72-mile-long Shenandoah Mountain through Fort Lewis in northern Bath County and then goes northeast through the scenic Deerfield Valley in Augusta County. It rejoins Dominion's preferred route at West Augusta near Braley Pond and continues east over Hankey Mountain from there.

## **Rick Webb on the Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition's web site writes:**

The new alternative route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, announced this morning by Dominion Transmission, avoids Cheat and Shenandoah Mountains but compounds the ecological harm that would ensue. By directing the pipeline further south in Pocahontas County, WV, into northern Bath County, VA and then north through the Deerfield Valley in Augusta County, the route would traverse some of the most concentrated karst topography in the Allegheny region. A pipeline through this area would significantly increase the likelihood of catastrophic erosion and sediment pollution of several significant waterways. Furthermore, the new route opens up to potential devastation a whole new set of cultural and natural resources. The many newly affected landowners and local officials must be carefully consulted before the project should be allowed to continue with the FERC process.

For our chapter a major concern is that the route passes through sensitive plant communities such as the shale barrens at South Sister in southern Shenandoah Mountain. The map can be seen [here](#).

## **Surveying the New Proposed Route for Rare Plants**

The Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society which opposes the new proposed Dominion Pipeline will be doing a series of hikes/walks and plant surveys along its route. We will likely be doing these in cooperation with other environmental groups. At present, this is in the planning stage and further information will be in the next newsletter.

Please send any articles or announcements to [Elaine Smith](#)