



Newsletter

VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY UPPER JAMES RIVER CHAPTER

*The counties of Allegheny, Amherst, Bath and Rockbridge
and the cities of Lexington and Buena Vista*

Summer - Fall 2013

Additions, changes or corrections to the calendar will be sent to our email list, and phoned to members not on email.

October 5th Saturday , Doug Tallamy speaking!!! 10 am Warm Springs Old Dairy Barn Festival – See article below for details about the programs and carpooling.

October 18th Friday, Annual Chapter Meeting. 6pm Boxerwood. We will gather once again at Boxerwood. We'll follow our usual schedule, with a potluck feast, including native foods where possible. During the munching, sipping and chatting, there will be information and seeds to share as well. Following this we will have a brief business meeting- required of us as a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society.

Between 7:15 and 8:30, we plan a panel presentation centered on Doug Tallamy's theme- "Bringing Nature Home". So we'll be bringing the message to our homes, from the Blue Ridge, through the Valley and on to Ridges.

President's Column

Yes, it is going to happen! Last spring, we learned of plans underway to bring Doug Tallamy's message to our UJRC. Over the summer, while we are usually dormant, Mary Hodges, Bath County member, remained evergreen with this project. And so, on Saturday morning, October 5, at 10:00 a.m., Doug Tallamy will be speaking at the Old Dairy Heritage Festival. Those among us who have already heard him speak encourage everyone to save that date. Not only is Doug an excellent speaker, but the message he delivers will change your landscaping forever. In the following paragraphs, we include the details.

And yes, we will be selling some of the plants, which, locally, help to spread the Tallamy message. Our chapter's table at the Festival will include

a list of the plants, along with instructions for purchasing these. The list will also be sent out to chapter members in a separate email.

Copies of the FLORA purchased by UJRC for libraries in our area arrived in April and were distributed to VMI's herbarium, Boxerwood, and all the branches of the Rockbridge Regional Library. Good news about the FLORA continues to emerge, and I will share more of this when we hold our annual meeting.

Save this date! Friday, October 18th at Boxerwood.

Katherine Smith

Doug Tallamy (Bringing Nature Home) to speak October 5th!

As a child, Douglas W. Tallamy spent his summer days exploring the wild places that surrounded him, discovering a small pond full with pollywogs, and taking great delight in watching their growth. One day, a bulldozer buried the young toads and all the other living treasures within the pond, an act that forever influenced Doug's way of thinking about nature.

Tallamy is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has written more than 65 research articles and *Bringing Nature Home*, the Silver Medal winner from the Garden Writer's Association.

The Festival is a delightful mixture of nature, music, and art. In addition to Tallamy, on Friday night there will be a showing of Ann Armbrecht's documentary "Numen: The Nature of Plants", that explores the relationship between nature and human health. Armbrecht is the author of "Thin Places: A Pilgrimage Home". Details for the full Festival are at www.olddairyheritagefestival.org/

The Chapter will have a booth at the Festival with information about the state and chapter organizations plus we will take plant orders for the fall.

Our chapter will be offering car-pooling on Saturday morning for those who would like to go over and back in good company. The designated meeting place is the Kerrs Creek Interchange from I64 to West Midland Trail- a designated Park & Ride site. We estimate one and a half hours over and back. We'll need to leave by 8:30 a.m. If you want to ride with us, please contact us by phone or email (261-2562 or

persimmontree@centurylink.net).

Fall Plant Sale

Although our familiar spring ephemerals are admired and sometimes coveted by many of us, both in and out of the UJRC, they are tricky to find sources for, whether from responsible dig-and-divide work, or from nurseries specializing in natives. Then they have a short window in which they look like themselves (the nature of 'ephemeral'), after which they often look like goners. SO, this spring, instead of the usual native plant sale along with Master Gardeners, we tried something different.

We ordered a number of sturdy, attractive tree and shrub species from three nurseries in VA, MD, and PA. The UJRC email list was notified of their availability (at very good prices!), and there was a good response – we sold all of the 25 redbuds ordered, and bayberry, greystem dogwood, arrowwood viburnum too, plus an assortment of other plants already on hand. And we have a good start on some trees and shrubs to sell at the Wed. Farmers Market again this Fall – elderberry, chinkapin, black locust, native hazelnut, silky dogwood, spicebush, and chestnut oak. It has worked well before to have a few sample plants right there, while encouraging customer orders for plants to be dug when their new site is already prepared.

This Fall we need to organize early (Sept-Oct) to include some good publicity beforehand (a brief article would be lovely). This has been a good way to spread the word that around here, Fall is the best time to plant trees, shrubs and early spring wildflowers, and that native species are the ones to focus on for supporting the native insects at the base of the food chain. This whole plan works best with several folks involved each week, either taking orders and sharing native plant info at the market, or digging the plants when folks are ready for them.

Call Peggy (464-3511) or Katherine (261-2562) to get on the help list. Since we'd like the plants to be dormant, our scheduling remains somewhat weather dependent – I'm hoping for late October(ish).

Brushy Hills Lower Trail – Some of the plants seen August 29th



Left to Right: Linda Krantz, Burt Lock, Peter and Barbara Farnham, Peggy Dyson-Cobb, Alexia Smith, Melinda Robinson, and Kerry Kilday, Dave Rosher took the picture and Rebecca Taylor was ahead on the path.

We had 10 for our late summer walk at Brushy Hills, co-sponsored by the UJRC and Friends of Brushy Hills. Highlights included: how much more shows up with many eyes; stunning blue lobelia and delicate, widespread *Lobelia inflata*; lemon-scented *Collinsonia* flowers; the tiny flowers of lopseed and jumpseed; eye-popping rose pink; finding puttyroot and thimbleweed seed capsules; how many spring “ephemeral” leaves were still visible – and as always, even when there doesn’t appear to be much going on in the woods, slowing down and looking more carefully turns up treasures!

Blooming

Bidens bipinnata – Spanish needles
Bidens frondosa – devils beggarticks
Boehmeria cylindrica - false nettle
Collinsonia Canadensis – stoneroot, horsebalm
Desmodium spp – tick trefoil
Dichanthelium clandestinum – deer tongue grass
Eupatorium spp – thoroughworts
Eurybia divaricata – white wood aster
Galinsoga parviflora
Galium spp – bedstraw

Heliopsis helianthoides – smooth ox-eye
Impatiens capensis – jewelweed
Lobelia inflata – Indian tobacco
Lobelia siphilitica – great blue lobelia
Oenothera biennis – evening primrose
Phryma leptostachya – lopseed
Pilea pumila – clearweed
Polygonum virginianum – VA knotweed, jumpseed
Sabatia angularis – rose pink
Soildago spp – goldenrod
Symphyotrichum cordifolium – blue heart-leaved aster
Verbesina alternifolia – wingstem, stickweed
Vernonia novaboriensis - ironweed

Showing seeds

Actaea racemosa - blk cohosh/bugbane
Anemone virginiana – thimbleweed
Aplectrum hyemale – puttyroot
Elymus hystrix – bottlebrush grass
Lindera benzoin – spicebush

Ferns

Adiantum pedatum – maidenhair fern
Asplenium platyneuron – ebony spleenwort
Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas fern

Leaves!

Asarum – wild ginger
Chimaphila – spotted wintergreen
Cypripedium – yellow lady’s slipper
Dioscorea – wild yam
Geranium – wild geranium
Osmorhiza – sweet Cecily
Sanguinaria - bloodroot
Toxicodendron – poison ivy
Trillium – large-flowered trillium
Tussilago - coltsfoot
Uvularia – bellwort
Verbascum – mullein
Viola

FLORA copies now at ALL Rockbridge Libraries!

In late July, our chapter donated copies of the FLORA to all the libraries in the county. This is a wonderful reference and now there is a copy close to your home.



Left to right- Phyllis Fevrier, Katherine Smith, Jeanne Eichelberger, Chris Wise, Margaret Ann Whittington (Library staff), Jan Smith, Laura Neale, Lisa Forman, Linda Krantz, and Faye Lowry.

FIELD TRIP at Glenda and Jerry Jackson's fields, July 27th.

Yes, we do usually go dormant during the summer. But, then there is the move to fall made by many of our native plants. This becomes obvious to us around the end of July, although plants began that phase shortly after the summer solstice. We asked the Jacksons for a preview of this in their landscaping. Designed for birds, it displayed what we rarely notice. The progression of summer to fall was definitely underway. So, berries and fruits were in abundance. Repeat bloomers, as well as late summer flowering natives filled in the landscape. Their unmowed fields revealed the opportunities plants might have to escape from our carefully tended beds to wildness close by, becoming part of the progression, not only seasonally, but eventually to woods.

Our sincerest thank you to Jerry and Glenda for sharing their lovely meadow and home. And for the excellent refreshments!

Virginia Native Plant Society Upper James River Chapter

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We welcome new members and guests. For more information, contact a board member.

President	Katherine Smith	540-261-2562
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