



## *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 2013**

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

**Tuesday, July 9, Rockbridge Regional Library at 11:00: Event to donate copies of the Flora of Virginia to the branch libraries.** After the photo-op, if there are any takers, we can celebrate with lunch together.

Our chapter has offered over the years seasonally attractive plant walks beginning with our winter plant walks and continuing into late spring. Now we are going to fill in the one slot we have never had before – late summer into fall. We are very glad to have an opportunity to visit members' Glenda and Jerry Jackson's property.

**Saturday, July 27 Glenda and Jerry Jackson Property tour 9 a.m** – See how the Jackson's have removed invasives and planted natives. Expect to see native grasses of which most are in seed, accompanied now by asters and early goldenrods among others. The Jackson's plan developed around encouraging wildlife particularly native grassland birds. This place will inspire us all to do more. Directions to the property will be provided by email, or phone and carpooling will be provided.

### ***President's Column***

Before gathering inside the Henrico Public Library's meeting room there, some of us roamed the outside. We found swamp magnolias (*Magnolia virginiana*) blooming, and gathered a few handfuls of munchables, otherwise known as *Amelanchier canadensis*. These were not quite as good as ones I sampled earlier up on the Rte. 250 bypass at Pantops. The parking lot of the BP station there had been landscaped with these. Bordered by asphalt and landscaping not including eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), there were no birds to snatch the fruit, and no CAR to be seen (cedar apple rust, that is).

Our meeting, with 18 present was seriously productive, and as always with good humor. We took positive action on webmaster Sue Dingwell's proposal to join up with a company to manage our site, rather than relying on a single individual. SO, there will be changes for the better. Bookmark now and watch the action. ([www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org))

Additionally, we explored suggestions for using our endowments to good advantage. On your behalf, I made a few of these myself, including one about the Registry sites VNPS looks after. Member Laura Neale has contacted John Dodge to nominate those wonderful spring ephemeral sites we know as the Cliffs of VMI- well, not really, but maybe they do need a formal title. Working through this will open up opportunities for us beyond just the exploration by foot, photo, and paperwork.

PS I was delighted to hear that other chapters go dormant in summer, too, limiting themselves to one or 2 evening programs. Even the honorable Jefferson Chapter! Well, they have enough to do what with planning the VNPS annual meeting there this fall.

*Katherine Smith*

### ***Boxerwood – Native potential!***

Faith Vosburgh, Boxerwood Horticulturist, and the Boxerwood horticultural team wants to thank the various "workers" from UJRC and Master Gardeners who have diligently tackled invasives ranging from honeysuckle and multi-flora rose to Garlic Mustard. These hard workers have come out to Boxerwood regularly attending the rain gardens, pulling invasive species from the sedges and native grasses. They've made a huge difference in the PlayTrail, releasing the junipers from honeysuckle so that they are kid-climbable again. This honeysuckle was so woody and old that the juniper was almost hidden.

The port-a john in the PlayTrail was being strangled by Lonicera making trips to the bathroom for small children more challenging than need be.

This group has tackled both invasive removal and identifying the natives along the front entrance. Our volunteer VA Tech intern, Robert Dowell, is potting those natives up. KB has been working with Robert to show him some of the plants for future propagation.

There is hope for developing a garden design with native plants as a showpiece for the entrance and along Ross Road. Collaboration with UJRC

will begin soon.

The new Kiosk at the entrance to Boxerwood will soon be filled with horticultural information, and any UJRC volunteers who would like to contribute their expertise to the creation of interpretive material are welcome. And anyone who would like to work on the native plant loop at Boxerwood please contact Katherine Smith.

Anyone with a little time and enthusiasm for helping with native plant interpretive information, or invasive removal at Boxerwood, please come join us. Contact Nancy Leonhard at 348-5847 our volunteer coordinator, or Faith Vosburgh, 463-2697 BW horticulturalist.

Boxerwood staff also was very kind to provide technical assistance as we update our pamphlets on how to manage our most common invasives – Japanese honeysuckle, autumn olive, Tree of Heaven (ailanthus), and multi-flora rose. If anyone has any methods that they personally have found successful, please let Jan Smith ([janandbob@verizon.net](mailto:janandbob@verizon.net)) know and we will happily include this information in our updated pamphlets. Or if you have problems with other invasives, let me know. I personally am trying to deal with Japanese knotweed.

### ***Summer blooms – what is happening in your yard?***

Contributions so far from 3 chapter members include as listed below.

#### **PERENNIALS**

Achillea millefolium

(See p 280-81 in the FLORA- is it native, or not?)

Actaea racemosa (Cimicifuga)

Agastache foeniculum

Anemone canadensis

Anemone virginiana

Aesclepias purpurascens (purple milkweed)

Aesclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed, orange milkweed)

Aesclepias syriaca (common milkweed)

Aristolochia durior (macrophylla?)

Coreopsis verticillata

Echinacea angustifolia

Echinacea pallida

Echinacea paradoxa

Echinacea purpurea Helianthus

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Euphorbia corollata

Heuchera spp

Hydrangea arborescens  
 Hypericum kalminianum and other spp  
 Impatiens capensis/pallida  
 Liatris spicata  
 Lycopodium americanum  
 Monarda didyma (scarlet beebalm)  
 Monarda punctata (spotted beebalm)  
 Oenothera sp  
 Parthenium integrifolium  
 Rudbeckia subtomentosa  
 Scutellaria incana / laterifolia / serrata  
 Stachys tenuifolia  
 Tradescantia virginiana



**Aesclepias purpurascens**



**Aesclepias syriaca**

### **TREES/SHRUBS**

Aesculus parviflora  
 Castanea pumila  
 Ceanothus americanus  
 Cephalanthus occidentalis  
 Clethra alnifolia  
 Cornus amomum  
 Cornus racemosa  
 Cornus stolonifera  
 Euonymus americanus  
 Itea virginica  
 Ilex glabra & verticillata  
 Magnolia virginiana  
 Rosa virginica

Sambucus canadensis  
Vaccinium sp

## VINES

Clematis viorna  
Lonicera sempervirens  
Toxicodendron radicans

Buckeyes (editor's note): I married someone from Ohio and I thought a buckeye was a chocolate and peanut butter candy. Now I am learning it's a tree. There are many types of Aesculus – the two that do best in this area are the Red buckeye (pavia) and the Bottlebrush (parviflora).



*Aesculus pavia, red buckeye*



*Aesculus parviflora*

## ***Dig and Divide - a productive day***

Faye Lowry's yard, Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Jan Smith, Beverly Bruck, and Katherine Smith agree that this day turned out to be a scorcher! Nevertheless, for 2 hours we removed some of Faye's excess *Chrysogonum* (2 versions), a fern and lots of *Carex plantaginea*. In shade behind her compost bin, Faye helped us cut back lots of extra foliage, so we were able to pot up as we went along, at least the easy plants. The *Carex* went home for – literally - division with the help of a hatchet!!!

***Chrysogonum*** is a genus of flowering plants in the daisy family.

It is a highly variable species: the northern variety is taller and more upright; the southern one prostrate and creeping.



It is a great groundcover easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Prefers moist, rich, organic soils. Tolerates wet soils. Spreads by rhizomes to form an attractive ground cover, but is easily controlled. [Mine is thriving under trees in my (editor's) hard clay].

**Virginia Native Plant Society Upper James River Chapter**

PO Box 503 Buena Vista VA 24416

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

President	Katherine Smith	540-261-2562
Vice President	Peggy Dyson-Cobb	540-464-3511
Treasurer	Laura Neale	540-261-1909
Secretary	Vacant	
News letter editor	Jan Smith	540-463-1942