



# Bulletin

A publication of the VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*Conserving wild flowers and wild places*

<http://www.vnps.org>

## Tulip poplar planted to honor Anderson

Planting the country's tallest eastern native tree, tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), in honor of her long service to the Virginia Native Plant Society and The Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum of Virginia was a fitting tribute to Sally Anderson according to all in attendance at the

October 26 ceremony. The tree planting and dedication, held at Blandy, marked Sally's retirement from the VNPS presidency after nine years. The tree label noted that the presentation of the tree to honor Sally was a partnership of VNPS and Blandy.

The planting of the tree on the Nancy Larrick Crosby Native Plant Trail is particularly appropriate because of Sally's long volunteer service on the trail. She is the arboretum's longest serving volunteer on the native plant trail, since at least 1996, and has logged over 3,000 hours of trail work.

"She has led our band in a mighty

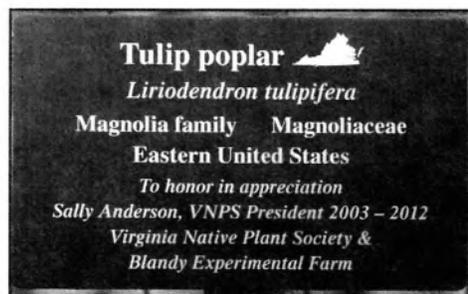
way," noted Nicky Staunton, herself a past VNPS president. "Sally is about people, our plants, and the appreciation of our plants."

Kim Strader, assistant curator of the native plant trail, gave further explanation as to why the tulip poplar was such an appropriate tree. "Our tallest eastern native is dedicated to our longest serving native plant volunteer. The tulip poplar can live up to 200 years and grow 200 feet tall. It was important in America's history because it was used to build houses and line wells. Daniel Boone's canoe was made from tulip poplar. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both admired tulip poplars," she said.

Jocelyn Sladen brought a message from Katherine Kennedy of the Center for Plant Conservation, which was the recipient of two plant sponsorship fundraising efforts led by Sally and VNPS. "Much of what an organization achieves is due to its leadership. To Sally we say 'Congratulations and job well done!'"

The cost of the tree was shared equally by Blandy and VNPS with extra donations from VNPS going toward the native plant trail restoration.

*Nancy Sorrells, VNPS Bulletin editor*



*Sally Anderson waters the young tree she just helped plant at Blandy. The special label, above, marks the tree.*

*(Thanks to photographers Marie Marjarov and Nancy Sorrells)*

**Save the Date!** The 2013 Winter Workshop will focus on the Virginia Piedmont and will take place Saturday, March 16 at the University of Richmond. Two confirmed speakers are Tim Spira and Chris Ludwig. Registration is expected to open February 15. Watch [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org) for more details.

## From the presidents . . . . .

### *Vehrs ready to continue strong presidential leadership*

**W**hat do Mary Painter, Mary Pockman, Nicky Staunton, Frank Coffey, Marie Minor, and Sally Anderson have in common? Well, they all have had the distinction of leading the Virginia Native Plant Society during our 30-year history. I am honored to succeed those leaders as your new president, and I thank Sally Anderson for her nine years (three terms) of service. Both Sally and Nicky remain on the board and the executive committee so I can rely on their wisdom and guidance in the years ahead.

VNPS and our beloved native plants face many challenges today. Our membership has reached a plateau, chapters have difficulty securing officers and other leaders, and our members are aging. Botany is becoming a lost discipline in academia. Plants are threatened by habitat loss, invasive alien species, deer, and climate change. Funding is always a challenge as well.

Is our future bleak? Mais, non! We have you, our loyal members, as advocates for the plants and our society. VNPS has many talented professional and amateur botanists, ecologists, biologists, horticulturalists, landscapers, gardeners, photographers, and writers amongst its ranks. With no formal training in science, I consider myself a native plant enthusiast, and I am sure that many of you fall in the same category. Working together, we can strive to protect and conserve our native plants by sharing our knowledge and passion with our friends, neighbors, and elected leaders.

Since the September election, I have already had the great fortune of attending the annual meetings of the three chapters in the Northern Virginia area. Two included walks in delightful fall settings, Scott's Run Nature Preserve in Great Falls and Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane. I look forward to the term ahead as I seize the opportunity to travel around our great Commonwealth and meet many of you at your upcoming chapter gatherings and walks.

**Your (incoming) VNPS President, Nancy Vehrs**



Newly elected VNPS President Nancy Vehrs presents retiring President Sally Anderson with information about a tree to be planted in her honor. The presentation took place at the VNPS Annual Meeting in September. (Photo by Richard Moss)

### *Parting words and thoughts from Anderson*

**B**y the time you read this, you will have a new president, but I couldn't resist saying a few parting words because I've got a couple of weeks to go. I want to tell all of you how much I've enjoyed serving VNPS, and that it has been great getting to know so many of you. At the annual meeting, I received a wonderful gift—a framed award telling me that a tulip poplar tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) would be planted in my honor at the Nancy Larrick Crosby Native Plant Trail at Blandy Farm. I volunteer on the trail every Wednesday morning (with our Horticulture Chair Kim Strader who is the Assistant Curator for the trail), so I recently helped to choose a planting site. I will see the tree often and will always be reminded of being so honored.

I'll continue to be involved in VNPS because there is still so much to do. Just as past president Nicky Staunton and many other long-time board members gave me the help

I needed to do the president's job, I hope to be able to be of service to our new president, Nancy Vehrs.

We all had a great time at the annual meeting! Thank you Catharine Tucker, and your committed chapter board, for the nice time. As we saw and heard, the James River and environs have many interesting botanical places in spite of the many changes in the last few hundred years. Plants can be tough and resilient as well as beautiful. Being a mountain resident, I appreciated seeing something we don't have here, the tall, airy, yellow blooms of wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*). It has just been made official that the Jefferson Chapter will host our next meeting, around mid-September of 2013. I'm already looking forward to that.

Thanks again everybody, and I'll see you on the trail!  
**Your (outgoing) VNPS President, Sally Anderson**

Redbud, *Cercis Canadensis*  
The 2013 VNPS Wildflower of the Year



(Photo by Sheryl Pollock)

## VNPS to visit the Smoky Mountains

Butch and Betty Kelly of the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society are doing the planning for a VNPS trip to the Smoky Mountains this spring. Dates for the trip are April 7-13. The group will spend part of the week in Gatlinburg, Tenn. and the rest of the week in Townsend, Tenn. Five of the days will be spent touring wildflower sites in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, one of the most biologically diverse and beautiful national parks. If you are interested, but need more information, e-mail [vnpsocf@shentel.net](mailto:vnpsocf@shentel.net). If you are certain that you want to go, send a \$200 deposit to: VNPS, "Smokies Trip," 400 Blandly Farm Lane #2, Boyce, Va. 22620 to reserve your space.

## VNPS.org: Your portal to Virginia's native plants

### *Do you know ...?*

*...you can learn about and share with others VNPS's position on conservation of native plants in their natural habitat?*

On the VNPS home page, click on "**Conservation**" and choose **Conservation Policies** or **Plant Rescues**.

*...you can make a VNPS donation online?*

It's easy! Just click on the blue-and-white "**Donate**" button on the VNPS.org home page.

*...you can learn about upcoming chapter and statewide events on VNPS.org?*

The "**Events**" calendar has the information you need on upcoming VNPS and chapter meetings, conferences, field trips, plant sales, and more, including RSVP instructions when required.

*...you can view photo galleries of VNPS field trips and meetings at VNPS.org?*

Photo and image galleries can be posted and viewed at state-level or chapter-level websites. For examples, see 2012 and 2011 Annual Meeting photos galleries under "**Archives**" on the VNPS.org main menu or click on Prince William Wildflower Society under "**Chapters**" and then on "**Wild**

**News and Gallery Archives**" to view the 2012 PWWS Garden Tour Gallery.

*...you can read the latest Bulletin—in color—weeks in advance of your mailed copy?*

Coming soon, you will receive an automatic email announcing the posting of each new issue of the *Bulletin*. Until then, notices will go out to all chapter presidents when the new issue is available.

*...you can access archived issues of the Bulletin dating from 2010 and the full text with color photos and illustrations of Wildflowers of the Year brochures from 1989 to the present?*

Look under "**Archives**" on the home page, or for WOY, click on "**Wildflowers of the Year**" on the home page menu.

*...you can link directly to chapter web sites from VNPS.org?*

Chapters with discrete or connected web sites or Facebook pages are directly linked from the "**Chapters**" button on the main menu of the home page. Plus, contact and other information for each of the 13 chapters of VNPS is available under "**Chapters**."

*...you can access VNPS lists for Native Plant Nurseries, Invasive Alien Plant Species, and Lawn Care Operators on VNPS.org?*

From the home page, click on "**Resources**" at the main menu, then choose a specific list.

*...you are "one-click" away from discovering what other nature-loving folks in North America are doing?*

Direct links to over 125 nature-related organizations, regional native plant societies, invasive plant sites, and listservs are aggregated on VNPS.org under "**Resources**." Choose the "**Links**" button to directly link to the organization's web presence. Also available is a special insert on "**Web Sites for Invasive Plants and Native Plants**," which can be found under "**Growing Natives**."

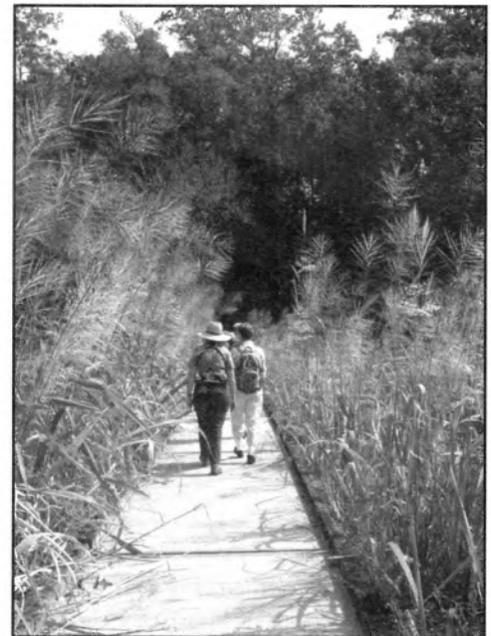
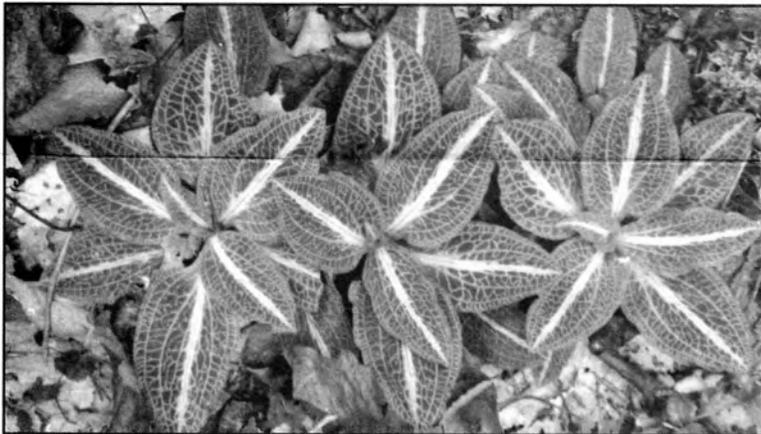
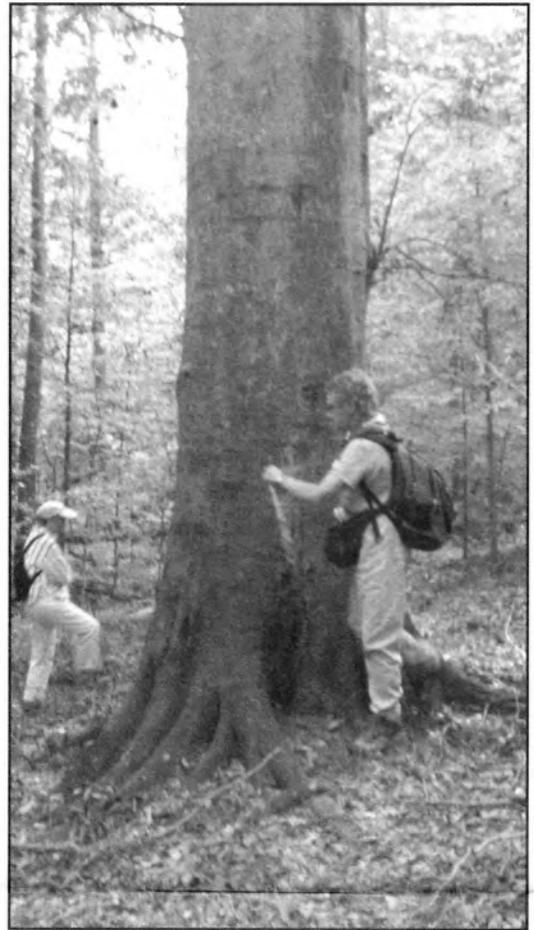
*...you can access contact information for VNPS officers, board members, and chapter presidents?*

Just click on the "**Contact Us**" button on the main menu of VNPS.org.

*...you can learn which VNPS Registry sites are open to the public?*

From the VNPS.org main menu, (Do you know?, page 7)

# VNPS Annual Meeting *Then & Now Along the James*



## Annual Meeting full of successes

From all reports, the 2012 VNPS Annual Meeting was a rousing success. VNPS President Sally Anderson expressed "sincere thanks and high praise" to the Pocahontas Chapter for a "perfectly planned annual meeting."

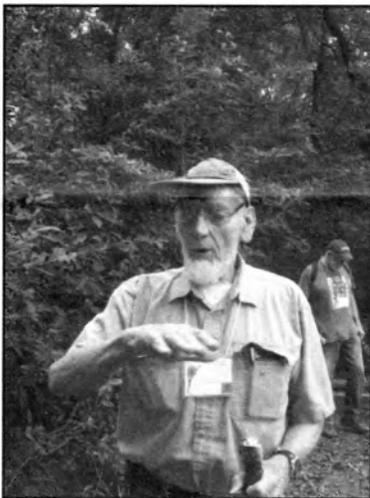
On Friday night, folks gathered to register under the 18th-century-style chandeliers while members of the VNPS Board met in the Spotsylvania Room. After dinner, we gathered upstairs in the Hanover Room to enjoy Leonard Adkins' beautiful photos and hear his inspirational narrative "Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Trail." This introduced much of the flora that is also found in areas downstream through the Piedmont.

Those up early Saturday morning were greeted with bright, warm sun and cool breezes, promising a perfect day afield. There were many good reports afterward. Nicky Staunton said it best: "The field trips had something for everyone. I enjoyed the Point of Rocks with Richard Moss and the wide range of beautiful autumn plants.... And again our visit to the butterfly exhibit and gardens at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with Nancy Arrington and Deanna High gave us more comparison of the botanical beauty landscapes on Saturday. The bonus at Ginter was a visit with members of their staff.

Getting back from the field trips in time to dress for dinner took some

*(See Annual Meeting, page 5)*

*Photos from top left, clockwise: James River Park; Aisle of View; Point of Rocks boardwalk with wild rice; and rattlesnake plantain at Aisle of View. Thanks to photographers Nancy Vehrs and Deanna High.*



Photos from top left, clockwise: John Clayton visits from the past; hiking on the Upper Coastal Plains hardwood field trip; wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*); pitcher plant at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden; and Larry Wilhite on the Point of Rocks trip. Thanks to photographers Richard Moss, Catharine Tucker, Mary Ann Lawler, Deanna High, and Jan Newton.

## • Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

effort, but we all made it. We had much to celebrate. In recognition of the 30th anniversary of VNPS, Nicky Staunton gave a brief history of the organization, called attention to the list of active charter members in the banquet program, and introduced all of the charter members who were present. Outgoing president Sally Anderson received a surprise gift of a tulip popular to be planted at Blandy in her honor to recognize her nine years of service as VNPS President.

One of the evening highlights was the surprise visit of "Mr. John Clayton" who regaled us with tales

of his latest trip to the mountains collecting plants. His appearance helped us celebrate the fact that the new *Flora of Virginia* was sent to the printer the day we began the annual gathering. Special guests from the Flora of Virginia Committee joined the crowd including Tom Smith and Chris Ludwig from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage Program. Ludwig brought special thanks to VNPS members for their long and strong support for the Virginia Flora Project.

Robert Wright's presentation on the flora of the James around Richmond demonstrated his thorough and intense research that started in childhood. He has generously offered to

send a CD copy of his talk on the flora of the James River. You may request it from him directly at [rwright@eee-consulting.com](mailto:rwright@eee-consulting.com).

Sunday ended with more trips. This day was overcast and cool making it perfect for hunting flowers in the woods without strong contrasting shadows. Tired but enthusiastic, no one wanted to be left off a trip. Some were surprised that there is so much wild area and so many interesting places to explore around Richmond-on-the-James. One person was overheard telling a friend she "didn't think I'd find anything interesting there, but learned a lot!" Discovery and learning — that was the whole idea!

*Catharine Tucker, Pocahontas President*

From the founder

# A message to native plant gardeners

Thirty years ago, in 1982, the Virginia Native Plant Society began as a small group in Northern Virginia that was focused mostly on plant rescues in the face of rapidly expanding development pressures. Eventually the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society became the Virginia Native Plant Society, and today there are 13 chapters spread across the state. In this issue we launch a series of articles written by founder Mary Painter as she looks back over the past three decades. Today the organization she started goes far beyond just plant rescues by looking deeply at the connections between plants and the entirety of the natural world.

No doubt that it would now probably take a pick ax and flashlight to unearth my VNPS archives from the Blandy Farm basement. Yet that file box contains the many names of the selfless and talented members who led in the early development of our organization at every level. While quite a number of us do still carry on, I'm aware of those champi-

ons who are no longer with us. It is to them that I dedicate this, the first of my series of articles for our *Bulletin* issues.

I ask that the following considerations be taken by our valuable ongoing members, especially native plant gardeners. As we traveled 1,400 miles from my Virginia farm to a new life in the southwest Florida Gulf Coast region in 2009, the only plant passengers were cuttings from my "Queen of the Night" (*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*). This night-blooming Cereus, a Brazilian beauty, was relocated from a Virginia bay window to a southern lanai enclosure. Were she ever released from my new home's long expanse of her screened prison, she would seriously gate-crash Florida (and beyond) with her aggressive, clambering habit.

From its inception, our VNPS has never held strictly to a "plant-only-natives" policy. Many of us, along our gardening way, have been enchanted by the lovely non-natives available for sale. Please just remember that to release from prison such pretty "Jezebels" is absolutely counter to responsible gardening and counter to the protection of our wild plants and wild places. Please contain or restrain

those species that do not belong in our natural areas.

On your own open property areas, please consider the cultivation of native plants—using local-gene-pool seeds or propagated stock. Our bugs, birds and butterflies have genetic memories tied to your property and specific nutritional links to native plants that would occur there. As founder of our VNPS, I wish to encourage our valuable members to garden in a way that, while enjoying the beauty of those plants we harbor, we foster ones that effectively figure into a positive connectivity of life.

Let me remind you (those who are computer-friendly or not), that our [www.VNPS.org](http://www.VNPS.org) site provides a regularly updated list of native plant growers and numerous sales events throughout the year. The list includes chapter sales events in your respective areas. Sources of local native seeds are also featured.

Our site also provides a list of plants invasive within our Commonwealth.

Lastly, I worked as a native plant nurserywoman for more than 20 years. I want to share just a small portion of classic growers' bibles written by previous colleagues. I invite you to visit—or re-visit:

- *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers*, Harry R. Phillips, UNC Press, 1985

- *Gardening with Wildflowers*, Frances Tenenbaum, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973

- *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*, C. Coleston Burrell, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2006

- *Growing & Propagating Showy Native Wooden Plants*, Richard E. Bir, UNC Press, 1992

From our VNPS Piedmont Chapter come two brochures as well: "Hedgerows," and "Do I Have To Mow All That?"

Mary Painter, VNPS founder

## DVD of 2012 Winter Workshop available

VNPS education chair Jan Newton recorded the VNPS Winter Workshop that took place on March 10, 2012, and has distributed DVD copies of the recording to every chapter for the purpose of sharing with members and others. Members should contact their chapter presidents to view their chapter's DVD. The quality of the recording is not as good as we intended due to using older equipment. As a result, the images of the slides are a bit fuzzy. The sound is clear and the overall result is still very educational. As a reminder, the workshop was Virginia's

*Ecosystems: Fields, Forests and Freshwater*. Workshop speakers were Martin Ogle ("The Big Picture: Understanding Virginia's Ecosystems"), Mike Hayslett ("Ecology of Flowery Waters"), Tom Dierauf ("The Forest and the Trees: Ecology and History"), and Benjamin Tracy ("The Importance of Native Grasses"). We thank our speakers for allowing us to record their presentations for distribution among our chapters and board of directors. The workshop can also be watched on the John Clayton Chapter's website on the "About VNPS" page: [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org).

# Virginia Currents films segment on *Flora of Virginia*

The new *Flora of Virginia* was in the spotlight Oct. 19 as *Virginia Currents* cameras rolled in the Hanover County countryside for a feature being produced about the manual. Chris Ludwig, a co-author of the *Flora* and executive director of the Flora of Virginia Project, and Marion Lobstein, a founding member of the Virginia Native Plant Society and a member of the Flora Project board, were filmed in a fall field talking about native plants, nonnatives, diversity, and the new *Flora* in a 10-minute segment that will air in early 2013. *Virginia Currents*, the award-winning newsmagazine that celebrates Virginia and Virginians, just began its 22nd year. It is produced in the studios of Commonwealth Public Broadcasting in the Richmond area and is now hosted by Daphne Maxwell Reid.

Speaking of the book, if you're reading this on the website, you should have your *Flora* by December 8. If you're reading this in print, you probably already have your copy! If you haven't yet ordered one, go to the Flora Project homepage at

(See *Flora news*, page 8)



Marion Lobstein and Chris Ludwig discuss plant diversity for the Virginia Currents cameras, with videographers Paul Adams, left, and Carroll Smith, with producer Patty Nevadomski. (Photo courtesy of Bland Crowder)

## • Did you know?

(Continued from page 3)

click on "**Conservation**," then on "**Know Your VNPS Registry Sites**." Open sites are noted and linked.

*...you can access a wealth of information about natives, alternatives to invasives, cultivation of meadows and hedgerows, and a brochure about wildflowers for butterfly and woodland gardens on VNPS.org?*

VNPS brochures, including a soon-to-be updated "Native Plants for Butterfly Gardens" are accessible and downloadable as PDFs. Click on "**Brochures**" under the "**Resources**" button. *Plus, there's more.*

Whether you need information for yourself or for distribution, [VNPS.org](http://VNPS.org) contains a range of native plant-related information, images, and articles in addition to current news and events occurring in the society.

### Coming soon...

VNPS members will be able to renew their membership and update their membership records online. New members will be able to join the society online, and moderated discussion groups will be able to post comments or content on topics of interest.

*Deanna LaValle High, former VNPS Director-at-large and website coordinator*

See the address label for your membership expiration date

### VNPS Membership/Renewal Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$30

Student \$15

Family \$40

Associate (groups) \$40\*

Patron \$50

Sustaining \$100

Life \$500

\*Please designate one person as delegate for Associate membership

To give a gift membership or join additional chapters: Enclose dues, name, address, and chapter (non-voting memberships in any other than your primary chapter are \$5)

I wish to make an additional contribution to \_\_\_ VNPS or \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter in the amount of \_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$(Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you do not wish your name to be exchanged with similar organizations

Check if you do not wish your name to be listed in a chapter directory

Which chapter do you wish to join? (See [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)) \_\_\_\_\_

Paying by credit card?  MC  Visa  Discover Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to VNPS and mail to:

**VNPS Membership Chair, Blandy Experimental Farm, 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2, Blandy, VA 22620**

Membership dues are tax deductible in the amount they exceed \$5. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

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Nancy Vehrs, President  
Nancy Sorrells, Editor

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The deadline for the next issue is **Jan. 15, 2013**.

# Good news, bad news for Tech's Stadium Woods

Adjacent to Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium in Blacksburg stands a 20-acre old-growth forest containing many large and ancient white oaks. Many of these trees were on the campus site long before the town of Blacksburg and the school were even in anyone's plans or dreams. Some of the trees predate European settlement in the region. One white oak is believed to be 346 years old, and others are believed to exceed 400 years in age. The forest is home to a state champion chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*.

The stadium woods is home to 600 trees whose diameters exceed 12 inches. There are 57 specimens with a diameter of 36 inches or more. It is home to 80 bird species and many wildflowers including bloodroot, May-apple and large whorled pogonia.

The imminent threat to the woods was a plan to construct an indoor football practice facility. The good news is this plan has been changed. The practice structure will be located elsewhere on campus.

The bad news is that the school refuses to make a long-term commitment to preserving the woods or making it off limits to future construction.

The disturbing news is that neither the university president nor the athletic director will allow an audience with pro-woods preservationists.

Recently one healthy yet hollow 85-foot oak was cut down. The reason given was safety concerns. The tree stood 115 feet from the walkway in the woods. The members of the football team are allowed to park in the edge of the woodlot on game days. This adds to compaction of the tree root systems. Requests to change this practice have fallen on deaf ears. It is strange that this is allowed because a

campus policy says no one is allowed to park on grassy areas.

One small victory is not what is needed here. Letters to the athletic department and Virginia Tech University President Charles Steger are needed. Letters to the editor in newspapers statewide would also be helpful. Any VNPS members who are Virginia Tech alumni should let your voices be heard. For more information on the issues at Stadium Woods, see the March 2012 issue of the VNPS *Bulletin*.

*Butch Kelly, Blue Ridge Wildflower Society*

## •Flora news

*(Continued from page 7)*  
[floraofvirginia.org](http://floraofvirginia.org) for a link to the order page. The price is right!

At the Flora Project, since the book has been in press, we have been able to turn our attention to other aspects of our work, like the *Flora* app, educational projects based on the manual, and the Flora Talks, a series of get-togethers we're planning across the state in 2013-14 about topics ranging from modern plant systematics to botanical illustration. Our friend John

Clayton will appear at many of those events. The character based on Clayton—the Colonial Virginia botanist whose work was the backbone of the 18th-century *Flora Virginica*, our only other flora—was researched and created for the Flora Project by Richard Cheatham of Richmond's Living History Associates with partial funding by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

*Bland Crowder, associate director, Flora of Virginia Project*

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