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PERMIT #339

Virginia Native Plant Society

2015 Workshop

A Forest Ramble: Interaction and Diversity



March 7, 2015

9:15 am - 3:30 pm

Jepson Hall Auditorium
Ryland Circle
University of Richmond, VA 23173
(Website Campus Map #17)



Virginia Native Plant Society
Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places
www.vnps.org

VNPS ANNUAL WORKSHOP
Blandy Experimental Farm
400 Blandy Farm Lane, #2
Boyce, VA 22620

A Forest Ramble: Interaction and Diversity

We often find ourselves making statements about native plants. Where does our information come from?

Some comes from observations by ourselves or our friends. As a society we are a group who love to be outdoors and, more important, many of us are keen observers of the natural world.

Another essential source of information is scientific studies. These studies also often begin with observations about plants or other organisms, with the observations transformed into hypotheses. Followed by further scrutiny in the field and the laboratory, scientists test those hypotheses and add knowledge to what our senses have told us.

Speakers for our Workshop have studied various native plants and habitats in this way, and they will share their research and findings with us.

We hope to pique our interest in how we know what we know about our native plants and habitats.

VNPS is piloting a research grant program intended to support these types of studies and deepen our understanding of the world we cherish. See more at <http://vnps.org/conservation/vnps-research-grant-2015/>

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The VNPS Workshop is being held on the University of Richmond campus.

Our venue is **Jepson Hall** (note that there are other buildings on campus named Jepson). Jepson Hall is located between Ryland Circle and Richmond Way. It is #17 on the online campus map at:

www.richmond.edu/visit/maps/print/parking.pdf

Morning refreshments and coffee provided.

Please bring your lunch. The university dining facilities will be closed for spring break.

Questions?
vnpsocf@shentel.net
540-837-1600
(office)
703-434-0009
(day of event)



Workshop Program

9:15 Registration and coffee

9:45 Welcome and introduction
Nancy Vehrs, President

10:00 **Anne Alerding, Ph.D.**

Effects of Garlic Mustard on Native Plant and Animal Communities

Invasive plants are gaining hold in Virginia's forests and displacing native plants. This presentation offers a historical view of the garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) invasion and its impacts on plants and understory detritivores.

11:00 Break

11:15 **Karen Barnard-Kubow**

The Appalachian Mountains: A Hot Spot of Genetic Diversity

The Appalachian Mountains are known to harbor many endemic plant species. This talk, focusing on the native American bellflower (*Campanula americana*), will explore how even a widespread species may have unique genetic lineages in the Appalachians.

12:15 Lunch - please bring your own

1:00 **Mary Jane Epps, Ph.D.**

Butterfly Wings and Pollen Thieves: The Natural History of Pollination in the Flame Azalea

This talk will present recent discoveries about the remarkable pollination biology of

the flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) and the natural history of some of the many insects that visit its flowers.

2:00 Break

2:15 **Henry Wilbur, Ph.D.**

Oh Deer: How Perennial Woodland Herbs Survive the Overabundance of Whitetails

This presentation describes the speaker's eight-year study of the deer browsing effects on plant survival in the woodland herb layer at Mountain Lake Biological Station.

3:15 Closing Remarks

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The Speakers

Anne Alerding, associate professor of Biology at the Virginia Military Institute, uses "real research" course experiences to develop students' keen analytical skills. She holds degrees in biology (Queen's University, undergraduate), botany (University of British Columbia, master's) and plant physiology (Pennsylvania State University, doctorate). She is the director of the VMI Herbarium, secretary of the U. S. Virtual Herbarium Project, section chair for the Ecological Society of America, and teaches botany to Master Gardeners. Her research focuses on invasive plants and biofuels development.

Karen Barnard-Kubow is a graduate student at the University of Virginia in the Department of Biology, where she will com-

plete her Ph.D. in May. She also holds an M.S. degree in environmental sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Her research interests focus on understanding the mechanisms leading to genetic diversity within species and how they contribute to the formation of new species, giving rise to the biodiversity we see around us.

Mary Jane Epps is an ecologist and postdoctoral researcher at North Carolina State University. Her research broadly focuses on interactions between insects, fungi, and plants, especially in the context of ecosystem services and environmental threats. In addition to plant-pollinator interactions in the flame azalea, her work includes studies of how fungus-insect interactions are affected by climate change, and how ants influence forest fungi and downstream consequences for decomposition and nutrient exchange.

Henry Wilbur retired as the B.F.D. Runk Professor of Botany at the University of Virginia in 2012, but continues to spend his summers at Mountain Lake Biological Station as a professor emeritus working with his wife Becky and undergraduate students on the effects of land-use history and deer on the flora there. He also researches sex switching in striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) and shoot dynamics of American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*). He spent 10 summers of his youth at Nature Camp and holds degrees in zoology from Duke University (B.S.) and the University of Michigan (Ph.D.). He was a professor of zoology at Duke (1973-1991), director of Mountain Lake (1991-2006) and professor of biology and environmental sciences at UVA (1991-2012).

Registration Form

Please register before March 2

Name _____

E-mail _____

Cell phone _____

Home phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please mail me a campus map []

_____ \$50 members

_____ \$80 non-members; includes membership

_____ \$15 full time student (have ID with you)

_____ Donation to VNPS

Make check payable to VNPS

Credit payment:

Circle one: VISA MC Discover

Card # _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Mail form and payment to
VNPS Annual Workshop
400 Blandy Farm Lane, #2
Boyce, VA 22620

