

A publication of the VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*Conserving wild flowers and wild places*

www.vnps.org

## BRIT Press will publish *Flora of Virginia*

It's official! The BRIT Press will be the publisher of the *Flora of Virginia*.

The *Flora of Virginia* Project and the publishing arm of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, in Fort Worth, signed an agreement in July that moves the creation of the *Flora* a giant step forward. Publication is set for late 2012.

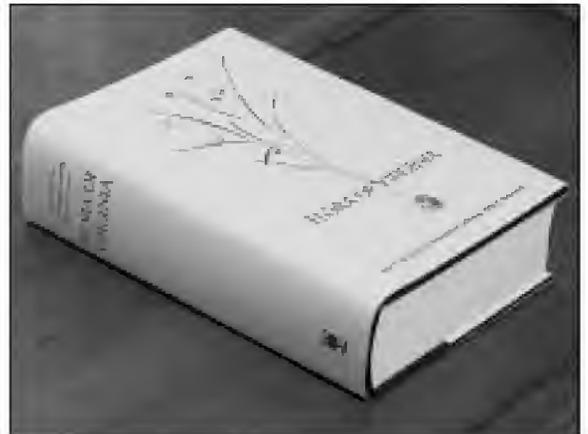
"The BRIT Press is delighted to be working with the *Flora of Virginia* Project in publishing this remarkable flora," said Barney Lipscomb, Dorothea Leonhardt Chair of Texas Botany with BRIT and head of the BRIT Press. "The *Flora of Virginia* is a 21st-century flora that will present critical information about the plant life of Virginia and surrounding states."

The *Flora* will be the most modern single-volume flora for our region and will reflect the latest advances in genetics and thought in plant biosystematics. It will be the first statewide plant manual for Virginia since *Flora Virginica* in 1762.

"We are very happy to have a publisher—but we're especially happy that it's the BRIT Press," said

Chris Ludwig, director of the *Flora of Virginia* Project and a co-author of the *Flora of Virginia*. "This is such a good match, and that has been clear since our first conversations over a year ago." In April, Ludwig visited BRIT and met with Lipscomb, after which only a few details remained to be worked out.

BRIT's mission illustrates why the *Flora of Virginia* is in the right hands. As its website states, "BRIT is a global institute for the conservation and preservation of plant diversity through research, education, scientific publications, and collections." Its press reflects its commitment to botanical research through the worldwide distribution of books and journals. In addition to the semiannual *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* (formerly *Sida*), the BRIT Press's editions include systematic monographs, botanical histories, and floras like Shinnery & Mahler's *Illustrated Flora*



A concept of the cover of the *Flora of Virginia*. Preliminary watercolor rendering of *Claytonia virginica* by Lara Call Gasteringer. The BRIT Press logo may be seen on the spine.

of North Central Texas and the *Illustrated Flora of East Texas* of which Lipscomb is a co-author.

The *Flora of Virginia* will be some 1,400 pages long, describing more than 3,500 plant species native to or naturalized in Virginia, of which 1,400 will be illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings commissioned for the book. Final content review is under way, and copyediting will begin this fall. The final manuscript will be handed off to the BRIT Press at the beginning of 2012. There, the *Flora* will be designed, laid out, and prepared for the printer. The BRIT Press will also spearhead marketing efforts.

(See *Going to press*, page 8)



*Let me tell you a thing or two  
about removing invasives!  
See page 6*



## From the president . . . . .

### *Summer's diverse habitats bring comfort*

*It's the heat of summer, breeze swishing the leaves in the treetops, a few yellow ones drifting down with each gust, and the fountain is on so I can hear the sound of water.*

*Recent trips to the mountains have shown again the amazing differences in habitat across the state. While plants here are in a summer lull, only a few Monardas and Rudbeckias for company, the roadsides in the mountains have diverse blooms, from columbines that finished here long ago on the Shenandoah Valley floor to late-summer flowers like the common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) that haven't started yet. And there are high-elevation plants like Indian plantain (Cacalia atriplicifolia), poke milkweed (Asclepias exaltata) and fly poison (Amianthium muscaetoxicum). The summer is compressed into a shorter season, and thick clouds of bumblebees, butterflies and others are at their seasonal work.*

*Our late summer wave of bloom in the Valley is beginning though. The first red of Lobelia cardinalis, heads of Joe-pye weed (Eupatorium spp.), those curious buttons of the buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), and a few Helianthus have appeared recently.*

*In this extremely hot summer, in spite of herbicided power lines and oily water, I am feeling lucky and grateful for the good things I have around me, and I'm hoping that VNPS can help to find a way to keep more of the land beautiful and healthy.*

*Your President, Sally Anderson*

## *Visit forestry center, unique sand dunes with VNPS*

Register now and join experts on back-to-back VNPS state field trips on Friday, October 1, and Saturday, October 2. Both trips run 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. On October 1, join retired William and Mary professor Donna Ware for an insider's visit to the New Kent Forestry Center (NKFC). The center celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2002, having produced more than 1.6 billion seedlings and received recognition as a

world premier forest nursery and research station. Located on more than 400 acres of mostly upland terrain along the Chickahominy River, NKFC is operated by the Virginia Department of Forestry. Its mission has always been the production of quality seedlings. During the morning portion of our visit, Lisa Deaton, forest education specialist, will describe current research at NKFC, which focuses on at

least 10 species in addition to loblolly pine, including American chestnut, Atlantic white cedar, longleaf pine, as well as native warm season grasses, and longleaf pine. She will also present information on the various plant communities represented on the site.

NKFC maintains a nature trail and boardwalk built by local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts through a bald-

*(See VNPS field trips on page 8)*

### *VNPS 2010 State Field Trips*

*\$10 donation per trip. Please register with the VNPS Office at 400 Blandy Farm Lane #2, Boyce, VA 22620, vnpsoc@shentel.net or phone 540-837-1600.*

#### **October 1, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Walk the boardwalk through a swamp at what was formerly the New Kent Forestry Center near Providence Forge. Trip will be led by College of William and Mary botanist Donna Ware.

#### **October 2, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**

See a 50-foot sand dune, many plant communities, and a beach that is home to rare northeastern beach tiger beetles at Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve. Led by Natural Heritage botanist Dot Field.

**I would like to attend the following trips:** \_\_\_ \$10 New Kent Forestry Center \_\_\_ \$10 Savage Neck Dunes

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL Enclose check with this information or call the office to register with credit card.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ VNPS CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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## Sword-leaved phlox

# VNPS support helps rediscover rare plant

As a result of a Virginia Native Plant Society-sponsored botanical survey, a globally rare plant is back on the maps in Virginia. Sword-leaved phlox was "rediscovered" after Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage field botanist, Nancy VanAlstine, conducted surveys to relocate historical occurrences of the globally rare phlox (*Phlox buckleyi*, G2/S2), known only from western Virginia and eastern West Virginia.

This perennial herb, which blooms in May and June, is typically found in open shale woods, and has not been reported in 30 years. The 2010 survey effort in May and June focused on relocating occurrences in Craig, Wythe,

Pulaski and Rockbridge Counties. During the surveys in May and June, sword-leaved phlox was found in five of the nine historical locations where the plant was sought.

During the June survey, populations of the plant were relocated and more accurately mapped for three of the five occurrences, with one along a road in Craig County north of New Castle within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, one with two colonies along a road bank near Max Meadows in Wythe County, and one consisting of multiple colonies along a road within the national forest west of Pulaski.

Sword-leaved phlox was not found in two other sites: a Wythe

County location with probable increased road bank disturbances since the original discovery, and a Rockbridge County site that may have either been subject to habitat degradation since the original find or the description may have been misinterpreted. Additionally, during the June field work two small road-bank colonies were found beyond the previously documented locations, one in Pulaski County and one in Wythe County. The survey is part of a larger project, funded by the Virginia Native Plant Society, to relocate historical occurrences of rare plants around the state.

*Reprinted from Virginia Natural Heritage E-News, Summer 2010*

## *June field trip opens eyes to forest dynamics*

SIGEO and NEON—that's science, not alphabet soup

At our June outing to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (formerly the Conservation Research Center) we spent much of our time at the SIGEO Forest Dynamics Plot with our tour leader Norm Bourg, plant ecologist and ecological research programs manager. This acronym signifies the Smithsonian Institution Global Earth Observatory, and grew out of the tropical forest plots that have been studied by the Smithsonian's Center for Tropical Forest Science since the first plot was established on Barro Colorado Island, Panama, in 1980. This study grew into a network of about 30 plots worldwide, each 25 to 50 hectares (about 62-124 acres). According to the center's website, a common plot structure and scientific methodology unify the network. All free-standing trees with a diameter at breast height of at least 1 cm. (0.4 inches) are tagged, measured, identified to species, and recensused approximately every five years. Because each plot follows the

same methodology, scientists can directly compare data collected from different forests around the world and detect patterns that would otherwise be impossible to recognize.

SIGEO represents the addition of temperate forest plots to this network. The same scale and methodology are used. At the site south of Front Royal, Virginia, the 25-ha. plot established in 2008 sits at the intersection of Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley, and Piedmont physiographic provinces and is covered in a mature second-growth mixed deciduous forest. Tree bands can be seen on many of the larger trees, and provide a precise measurement of growth. The initial inventory recorded 40,400 trees and shrubs of 65 species, plus 7 woody vine species. Several other types of ecological studies are ongoing, and volunteers can participate in some of these projects.

Included within the SIGEO plot is a 4-ha. (10-acre) deer enclosure. Although some deer occasionally visit the enclosure, they are soon

chased out. We found a fawn in the enclosure when we visited, and Norm told us that the mothers usually manage to come in after them. The fence does not exclude any other species, including bears, which seem to have no problem passing over the farm fence topped with several strands of wire. The results of excluding the deer are seen in the many tree seedlings that survive to become adults, and in the paucity of invasive plants, which are found outside of the enclosure.

The field trip site is also the core station for the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Mid-Atlantic domain. NEON observatories will collect data across the United States on the impacts of climate change, land-use change and invasive species, and the effects of those changes on natural resources and biodiversity. There are 20 domains that include all 50 states and Puerto Rico. NEON is a relatively new project of the U.S. National Science Foundation, with many other U.S. agencies and nongovernmental

*(See Trees, page 7)*

# Ancient longleaf pine habitat being restored

In early June, a group of John Clayton Chapter members gathered in Sussex County for a tour of the Joseph Pines Preserve. Hundreds of years ago, a climax longleaf pine forest probably stood here. This unique and incredibly diverse ecosystem, once dominant in the southeastern United States, historically reached its northern limit here in southeast Virginia. But the most evident indication of a formerly grand ecosystem at the preserve are the remains



*Pinus Palustris, longleaf pine*

of an old longleaf stump that had been sacrificed to the business of lumber, tar, pitch, and turpentine production.

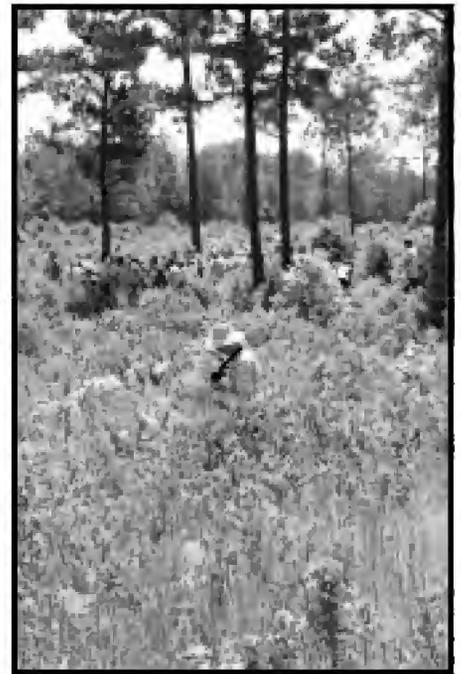
Today, through much effort by the scientists and volunteers of Meadowview Biological Research Station, minimal funding, and the healing hand of nature, the preserve is in the early stages of recovery. In its present state the front of the preserve is a 30-plus-year-old mixed loblolly pine/hardwood stand. Here the Meadowview team has conducted five understory, growing-season burns to restore a wetland pine savanna. At the back of the preserve 45 acres have been cleared, burned, chemically treated, and replanted with certified native Virginia longleaf pine. Scattered

throughout the preserve are a number of sphagnum seepage bogs with native pitcher plants.

Our walk was led by Phil Sheridan, president and director of the Meadowview Biological Research Station that owns the 100-acre preserve. As Phil explained to us, the longleaf pine ecosystem was evolutionarily dependent on lightning-caused fires. The high resin content of the fallen needles of *Pinus palustris*, and their tendency to decompose slowly are two of the conditions that allowed the frequent fires that encouraged the growth of the characteristic early-successional array of flora—hot enough to discourage growth of shade-creating hardwoods and understory shrubs, but not so intense as to kill the fire-resistant longleaf pines.

Hundreds of plant species prospered in the characteristic fire-robbed, nutrient-poor soils of established longleaf forests. Clues that Joseph Pines was once inhabited by such an ecosystem are some of the flora recently discovered there such as red milkweed (*Asclepias rubra*), Collins's sedge (*Carex collinsii*), Rafinesque's seedbox (*Ludwigia hirtella*), and the sandhill's fire lily (*Lilium pyrophilum*). Historically in damp depressions of the fire-cleared forest, one could also find the yellow pitcher plant (*Sarracenia flava*) and pink sundew (*Drosera capillaris*), two carnivorous plant species we saw at Joseph Pines.

Unfortunately, the pitcher plant and many other species have been eradicated from their native territory. Indeed only two wild populations of the endangered yellow pitcher plant still exist in Virginia, and



*John Clayton members explore the Joseph Pines Preserve while on a field trip. (All photos by Phillip Merritt)*

these are not thriving. But here is the good news. Pitcher plants of rare populations are being propagated at the Meadowview facility both from seed and divisions and then are returned to the wild. We were thrilled to see the product of this unique work in several thriving pitcher plant bogs, the largest stands of their kind in Virginia!

Of course, successful establishment of the pitcher plant is only a part

*(See Joseph Pines, page 7)*



*Sarracenia flava, yellow pitcher plant*

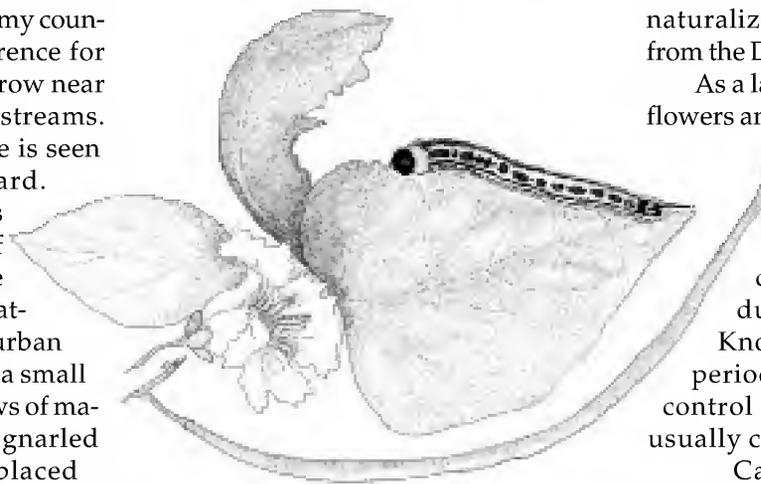
# Catalpas, moths have unique relationship

Catalpa trees are part of my country landscape. Their preference for moist soil allows them to grow near roadside ditches or near streams. Sometimes a specimen tree is seen in an old farm's front yard. Their lacy white blossoms against a background of deep green leaves are arrestingly beautiful. The catalpa can also be seen in urban settings; a large tree filling a small quarter-acre lot. Winter views of mature trees reveal twisted gnarled trunks with irregularly placed branches that match mountain top trees shaped by harsh climate elements.

Last summer, a vehicle hit a young Catalpa tree nearby. Several days after the accident, the tree was defoliated. Only its cigar-like seed-pods were hanging from the branches. No leaf was on the tree and it was easy to jump to the conclusion that the tree was dying as a result of the accident. There had been evidence of some small fire related to the crash.

The tree remained upright and defoliated, but a few days later, new leaves began emerging. Within three weeks, that tree had a new leaf canopy of large green leaves. It was not the crash that caused its trauma. Catalpa worms (sphinx moth caterpillars, *Ceratomia catalpae*) were defoliating the tree at the time of the crash. They didn't attack the seed-pods, which are sometimes called Indian beans or Indian cigars, that were hanging from the branches like giant green beans. The tree completed its normal life cycle that year and the next year the defoliation cycle began again. Leaves, blooms, pods, defoliation, and re-leafing.

Controlling the caterpillars of the sphinx moth is not popular. The reason lies in the following question-and-answer. What native southern tree species is associated with largemouth bass fishing? Answer: Both southern catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*) and northern catalpa



*Catalpa* leaf, blossom, and seed pod, as well as a sphinx moth caterpillar (Illustration by Nicky Staunton)

(*Catalpa speciosa*)! An on-going catalpa industry exists selling catalpa worms that produce two broods per year. Fishermen consider these larvae a treasured bait. After reading how the caterpillars are used, a fly lure mimicking the worm might be preferred by those with a squeamish stomach.

A healthy market on eBay for both fresh and frozen caterpillars hovers at about \$40 for six dozen. Actually they are alive when removed from the packing and thawed. Katawba Gold is one company offering the bait. Largemouth bass reportedly have a voracious appetite for the three-inch black and pale yellow caterpillar with the characteristic long black spike tail or horn.

The catalpa tree creates many emotions for those who enjoy its blooms, ache with its defoliation and then rejoice when it leafs out again as a renewed tree until winter takes its leaves once again. Because not all catalpa trees are selected by the sphinx moth, some never lose all their leaves to the caterpillars. Not everyone is aware that the catalpa tree leaves are the sole host for the catalpa sphinx moth, but fishermen know!

The words catawba and kawtawba are informal names for the catalpa. No matter the spelling, neither tree species is native to Virginia. In the Old Dominion, the trees have

naturalized after being introduced from the Deep South and the Midwest.

As a landscape tree enjoyed for its flowers and interesting architecture, it might be better for it not to be a center of landscape focus if the sphinx moth larvae strike, leaving the tree defoliated even for the short duration of a week or two. Knowing that the defoliation period is brief, using chemical control for the caterpillars is not usually considered.

Catalpa trees have had only slight economic importance beyond the landscape nursery business. The wood has strength enough to have been used for fence posts, but generally is not considered of key economic value. Catalpa trees are in the Bignoniaceae family with trumpet vine (*Campis radicans*) and cross-vine (*Bignonia capreolata*). The invasive non-native princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) was once classified in the Bignoniaceae family before being moved to Paulowniaceae, and, more recently, into Scrophularaceae according to the USDA website. The new *Virginia Flora*, however, will keep it in Paulowniaceae.

Two venerable and beautiful old catalpa trees survived the Civil War in Chatham, Virginia, near Fredericksburg. Their photographs can be seen and their story read in the *Remarkable Trees of Virginia* (Nancy Ross Hugo and Jeff Kirwan, with photographs by Robert Llewellyn). The trees were part of the antebellum landscape of the home that served as a hospital there on the heights. The young catalpa trunks witnessed the carnage of war. In 1978, the trees were estimated to be 160 to 170 years old. The astounding beauty of their knotty gnarled and hollow trunks remains and they still support beautiful blossoms. Hopefully, the sphinx moth keeps its distance from these inspirational and remarkable catalpa trees.

Nicky Staunton, VNPS vice-president



## Goats put biological brakes on invasive plant species

We have all seen the choking destruction of invasive alien plant species: autumn olive, *Ailanthus*, Japanese honeysuckle, Asian bittersweet, kudzu, Bradford pear, and multiflora rose can take over a tract of land and wipe out native habitats within a few years. Often the only recourse for reclaiming an area is bushhogging or applying heavy applications of herbicide.

But now there is a faster, easier, more organic way to rid an area of invasives. Enter goats—in this case South African Boer Bok goats. These large goats, raised for meat, actually prefer eating with their heads up, foraging and browsing off of shrubs rather than putting their heads down and grazing. In the Shenandoah Valley, Linda and Clay Trainum of Autumn Olive Farms are participating in a pilot land-reclamation project sponsored by the Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development Council in partnership with the Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District. The purpose is to restore ecological balance within a habitat.

The Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton offered up the perfect laboratory for the project because it had several fields badly overgrown with Bradford pear seedlings from a nearby memorial avenue of the trees as well as autumn olives and multiflora roses. The Trainums devised a plan to rotate 36 does and a buck through several fields. The animals were fenced in behind a

flexible electrified mesh fence and protected by a Great Pyrenees guardian dog. Within days the animals had turned the once-impenetrable field into a stripped-out war zone while gently fertilizing the field with their droppings. And, should any of the invasive seeds happen to enter the goats' digestive tracts, the odds of germinating after excreting are very slim. Further, unlike cattle

everyone. It turns out that some of the more nutritious forages that produce some of the best meat are those invasives that seem to thrive even during droughts, giving these ruminants food while other livestock owners bring out the hay. The result is a highly nutritious, natural meat product that is low in fat and cholesterol. And, apparently, it is delicious as

well—the meat is highly sought after by local restaurants that specialize in fresh, local food products.

In addition to their project at the Frontier Museum, 44 other Trainum goats are hard at work south of Staunton trying to eradicate an impenetrable field of autumn olive shrubs. We are all rooting for them! If you would like to follow the culinary adventures

of the Trainum's goats, visit [www.autumnolivefarms.blogspot.com](http://www.autumnolivefarms.blogspot.com).

Nancy Sorrells  
VNPS Bulletin Editor



A herd of goats teams up on an autumn olive. (Photos by Nancy Sorrells)

in a field, goats don't like to get their feet wet, so if there is a stream within an area being cleared, they will not degrade the stream banks by stepping down into the water. They will never stand in the stream and defecate.

The goats, who can strip an acre in a few days, will be rotated from field to field every few weeks. Plants such as autumn olive will attempt to put out new growth two or three times but eventually give up and die after being munched on time and again. At that point, when the invasives are gone, the field is ready to be prepared and replanted with native species.

The result is a win-win for



# • Joseph Pines

(Continued from 4)

of Meadowview's goals. It is also dedicated to restoration of an integrated longleaf pine-pitcher plant habitat for 18 rare plant and three rare animal taxa. The backbone of the restoration effort is the establishment of native Virginia longleaf pines. The germplasm for the trees planted at Joseph Pines, unlike those of other restoration sites, was gathered from native Virginia stock. In an effort to capture the local genome, the scientists and volunteers at the preserve took on the arduous process of gathering cones still hanging from some of the 4,432 native trees in the state and propagating those seeds. At the age of 1 year, the seedlings were planted, and today, 5,000 longleaf pines at the preserve are 2 to 9 years old.

Another key to the sustainability of the longleaf-pitcher plant community is understanding surface-water and ground-water flows at the preserve. Research projects are being conducted by Old Dominion University students and volunteers to determine how water reaches the bogs, to understand the make-up of the soils, and to learn the type and age of any seeds found in soil plugs. Finding pitcher plant seeds, or better yet, viable pitcher plant seeds, would be exciting news indeed!

The work accomplished by the Meadowview team members is unprecedented in the state and a testament to their vision and the challenge still before them. They plan to expand the preserve to 234 acres by purchasing two adjoining properties, which will allow almost complete control of the local bog watershed. The original purchase of Joseph Pines (100 acres at \$100,000) was accomplished entirely from small donations by members. Continued generous donations are necessary to make this conservation work possible. Donations are tax deductible because Meadowview is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Make sure to check out the John Clayton website ([www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org)) and follow the link to "Photo Gallery" and then to Phillip Merritt's photographs to see more of Joseph Pines. Also, learn more about the Joseph Pines project and how you can help at [www.pitcherplant.org](http://www.pitcherplant.org).

*Terri Cuthriell, John Clayton Chapter*

# • Trees

(Continued from page 3)

organizations cooperating. Its purpose is to study continental-scale questions about our environment and seems to be focused on climate change and biological invasions.

Our group also stopped by a recently sown warm season grass plot that had not sprouted for lack of moisture and so there was little to see. The SCBI grows food for our nation's zoo and plans to test native grasses for use as forage and at the same time have a wildlife-friendly pasture. We also visited the American chestnut orchard. There we were lucky to have along Cathy Mayes, who heads Virginia's chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. She was able to tell us a lot about the work being done and about this orchard. Thanks to both Cathy and Norm for an interesting day!

*Sally Anderson, VNPS President*

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

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## • VNPS field trips

(Continued from page 2)

cypress swamp. After lunch, Ware, who is curator emerita of the William and Mary Herbarium, will lead the group along this trail where species such as Elliott's goldenrod, poison sumac, water ash, sweet leaf (horse sugar), red-berried cat-brier, frogs-bit, and a variety of ferns occur. After exiting the swamp, we will follow slopes above the swamp to the banks of the Chickahominy River where farkleberry (!) (*Vaccinium arboreum*) is near its northern limit. From the riverbank we will view an extensive bald-cypress forest in autumn foliage. If time permits, we will also visit a deep sand habitat at the tip of an adjacent peninsula along the river that is inhabited by Margaret's oak and narrow-leaved bluecurls.

Those who sign up for Saturday's October 2 trip will meet Dot Field, Eastern Shore region steward, Division of Natural Heritage, for a field trip at Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve. This special natural area features sand dunes as high as 50 feet above the Chesapeake Bay, making them among the highest points on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The dunes and the mile-long bay shoreline help support diverse maritime plant communities, which in turn provide es-

sential habitat for migratory birds and the federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. Dot introduced us to this preserve and others under her stewardship in her presentation at the 2010 annual VNPS Workshop.

Following this field trip, there will be an opportunity to visit Joe Scalf's Living Shoreline Project that is nearby. If you attended the workshop, you will recall that Joe introduced us to this demonstration project.

Bring a lunch or a snack and water and be prepared for weather and insects by wearing long pants, closed shoes, and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket. The parking at Savage Neck Dunes is limited, so consider carpooling. The preserve has only rudimentary toilet facilities (field toilet with tent cover), so it may be wise to

stop at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Rest Area or at the McDonalds or Hardees along Rt. 13 before arriving at the preserve. To learn more about Savage Neck, visit [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/documents/pgsavage.pdf](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/pgsavage.pdf).

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### *Invasive plant workshop*

"Good Green, Bad Green: Invasive Plant Control for Habitat Restoration," a Mid-Atlantic focused conference sponsored by a consortium of conservation organizations including VNPS, will be held September 16-17 in Front Royal. Session topics include climate change and invasives, species identification, vegetation management, habitat triage, herbicide use, and habitat restoration. For more information, visit <http://www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/> or call 540-564-3080.

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### • Going to press (Continued from page 1)

"The *Flora* will be vital for managing Virginia's natural resources and fundamentally important to all levels of education in Virginia," Lipscomb said. "But it will also provide trustworthy information that will meet the needs of the commercial and nonprofit sectors and local, state, and federal governments." It is expected that the *Flora of Virginia* will also be in demand in neighboring states, which share many taxa with Virginia but lack a current flora.

For more information about BRIT, please visit [brit.org](http://brit.org). And to learn more about the Flora of Virginia Project, please visit [floraofvirginia.org](http://floraofvirginia.org).

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