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Spring 1989



Bulletin

Vol. 8, No. 1

A publication of the VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
(formerly the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society)

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution
in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia,
there is hereby officially recognized:*

VIRGINIA WILDFLOWER CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, the Virginia Native Plant Society is dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of Virginia's native plant heritage; and

WHEREAS, through its many local chapters, the Virginia Native Plant Society encourages Virginians to cherish Virginia's diverse natural beauty in every part of our Commonwealth and in every season; and

WHEREAS, the delicate beauty of spring wildflowers, spreading across Virginia's countryside as winter yields to the new season, brings special refreshment of spirit to our people; and

WHEREAS, during April and May, 1989, the Native Plant Society and its local chapters will be conducting a variety of events inviting the public to enjoy and learn about Virginia's natural habitats and wild plants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gerald L. Baliles, Governor, do hereby recognize VIRGINIA WILDFLOWER CELEBRATION in April and May, 1989, and call its significance to the attention of all our citizens.



Gerald L. Baliles

Governor

From the President



Every February, Spring feels far off. The hunger awakens in us to visit hepatica snuggled under fallen leaves of last autumn. By March, tips of *Mertensia virginica* peek through earth's blanket, waking from dormancy since last Spring. Anticipation grows -- and grows. Finally, April arrives with Virginia's profusion of

blooms: spring beauties, trillium, trout lilies, *clematis ochroleuca*, twinleaf, **Virginia bluebells!** Redbud joins them. Fern fiddleheads appear. Excitement reigns as we make pilgrimages to favorite habitats of wildflowers.

VIRGINIA WILDFLOWER CELEBRATION '89 is underway!

Seasons have changed! Some habitats of favorite wild flowers have changed. Changes by nature -- wind, ice, sub-zero temperatures yield broken branches, fallen trees. Changes by people -- thoughtless or orchestrated -- yield a vast field of bluebells by a small stream gone, the land "improved" for housing or industry. On a floodplain!

Life is change. But, **why** destroy the beautiful bluebell home? Remember, change is constant. We rejoice at the change that brings us fresh sunrises; but, we do **not** rejoice when change brings death for a species of flora. It will **never** return. We mourn and our emotions move us to action to protect these fellow inhabitants of this good old earth. They do belong here, just as surely as we do.

Energies of VNPS members join with energies of others with similar concerns and desires to control change through education. We want to learn and to teach our children, our

elected representatives, and our land developers. We learn the necessity of bringing about undisturbed areas for native flora, which are not mobile as is mankind. The habitat for some species is a precise combination of soil, water, light, mycorrhizal association and neighboring flora and fauna. Being a plant is not easy! Education will lead to necessary insurance of space for flora with specific habitat needs.

For many of us, following planning/zoning actions/legislation may not be nearly as much fun as visiting native plants throughout Virginia. What can match seeing 50 yellow lady's slipper blooms from a road through a woods on a carpet of forest leaves? Maybe it is not as elemental to our nature as digging a hole in the ground to give a home to a rescued plant. Without sharing our knowledge, however, our pilgrimages in the spring will dwindle, finally stopping as a lone plant becomes extinct.

Do rise above these "down" thoughts. Go. Enjoy the beauty of Spring '89. As you enjoy our native flora, resolve to work actively to protect the beauty of our state and to insure the existence of floodplain for *Mertensia virginica*; the forest for trillium; fields for sundrops. Keep Virginia's native flora in native habitats!

Nicky Staunton

Annual Meeting Date Set

Wetland Conservation will be the theme of this year's annual VNPS membership meeting to be held September 22-24 at the Sheraton Reston Convention Center. Potowmack Chapter will host the event beginning with an introductory slide program Friday night. Activities will continue Saturday and Sunday as members and guests participate in field trips emphasizing the importance of our wetland habitats. Saturday evening all participants will gather for the auction and dinner featuring a speaker on the theme topic.

Watch for further details in your next Bulletin.

BULLETIN

A publication of the
Virginia Native Plant Society

Nicky Staunton, President

Jenifer M. Bradford, Editor

Barbara Stewart, Artist

Permission is hereby given to reproduce original material contained in the **Bulletin**, provided credit is given to the author, if named, and to VNPS, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003. Contributions to the **Bulletin** are welcomed and should be sent to the Editor at 10261 Slate Run Lane, Nokesville, VA 22123. The deadline for copy for the next issue is April 10.

Editor's Note

ALL copy submitted for publication should be typed, double spaced with wide margins. Copy sent well in advance of each Bulletin deadline will be greatly appreciated. Bulletin deadlines for 1989 will be: April 10, July 10, and October 9. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

The Editor is interested in receiving written comments on the new format, type style, and content as found in this issue. Changes will continue to take place as a new logo is developed and as new policies are formulated. Watch out as VNPS progresses. All suggestions are welcomed.

Virginia Wildflower Celebration '89



The Virginia Native Plant Society's first **Wildflower of the Year**, the Virginia Bluebell, *Mertensia virginica*, is the occasion of the Society's first educational brochure about our selected flower. Every member will receive a copy, as will exchange organizations. Extra brochures will be available on request. To obtain more brochures, write to Wildflower of the Year, P.O. Box 462, Manassas, Virginia 22110.



Bluebell Walks

April 15 Walk at Calmes Neck, near Upperville led by Cris Fleming. 9:30 a.m. Meet at Gate 3, Little River Rd. (Private property.) For directions phone Lillian Lukaczer (H) 301-656-5583 or on weekends 703-837-1756.

April 15 and 16 Bluebell Walk. 2:00 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park near Centreville. For information call 352-5900 (weekdays) and 631-0550 (weekends).

April 16 Bluebell Walk at the Old Stone Bridge, Manassas National Battlefield Park, off Lee Highway (Rt. 29) led by Elaine Haug. 2:00 p.m. Call Elaine for more details: 703-670-2347.

Chapter Walks and Events

Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

April 16 Field Trip to Blackwater Creek. 1 p.m. at Kroger, Route 460E, to carpool to Lynchburg, or at the end of Thompson Drive in Lynchburg at 2 p.m. Contact Dorothy Bliss 804-845-5665 for details.

April 22 Field Trip to Martinsville area. 9:15 a.m. at Tanglewood Mall or at 10:30 a.m. at Stanleytown Elementary School (just off Rt. 57W in Martinsville). Bring a bag lunch.

April 28-30 Science Museum of Western Virginia, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage.

April 30 Trillium Walk. 2 p.m. Meet at Thunder Ridge parking area on Blue Ridge Parkway. Contact Dorothy Bliss at 804-845-5665 for further details.

May 5-7 Overnight Field Trip.

May 13 Annual Plant Sale. Rain date is May 20.

May 21 "Let's go South on the Parkway." 10 a.m. at Smartview picnic area. Flame azaleas will be in bloom. Probable stop at a winery. Bring a bag lunch.

June 4 Field Trip to Booker T. Washington National Monument. 2 p.m.

June 10 Rhododendron Weekend. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center. Bring a bag lunch.

John Clayton Chapter

April 1 Tour wildflower gardens and rhododendron collections of Barbara and Alton Hall and of George Keen McLellan. Near Gloucester. 9-12 noon.

April 14 Spring visit to the Chesapeake Corporation nature trail. South of West Point. 1:30-4:30 p.m.

May 6 Tour ravines of Yorktown Battlefield. 10-12 noon.

May 13 Plant Sale. 10 a.m. Heritage Shopping Center, Grafton. Contact Cynthia Long at 804-229-8162 for more information.

May 16 Visit magnificent mountain laurel brakes and ravines on property of Dorothy and Nelson Burkholder. Isle of Wight Co. 1:30-4:30 p.m.

June 3 Visit Fernald's pond, home of stool sedge, red berried *Smilax*, three-way sedge, and poison sumac. Williamsburg. 9:30-12 noon.

Contact Donna Ware at 804-253-4240 for more details and to reserve space.

Piedmont Chapter

April 2-8 Ecology Awareness Week, Fauquier County Parks. Walks and talks. Call Paddy Katzan 703-347-8600.

April 15 Friends of the State Arboretum of Virginia gift shop opening and Piedmont Chapter plant sale. Near Boyce. Call 703-837-1758.

April 26-27 Garden Week at Airlie. Guided walks. Call Gina Farrar 703-347-3635.

May 10 Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society talk by Chapter member Harrison Symmes, "Virginia Natives in Woods and Gardens." 7:30 p.m. State Arboretum. Call 703-837-1758.

May 12-14 Shenandoah National Park Wildflower Weekend. Call Terry Lindsay 703-999-2243.

Potowmack Chapter

May 6 Wildflower Walk at Linden co-sponsored with the Fairfax County Park Authority. 10-12 noon. Leaders are Cris Fleming and Gary Fleming. Bus leaves Green Spring Farm Park at 9 a.m. and returns at 3 p.m. \$15. Reservation deadline is April 28. Call 703-642-5173 for reservations and more details.

May 14 Plant Sale. 12-3 p.m. At Green Spring Farm Park, Alexandria, VA.

June 17 Wildflower Walk at Suitland Bog, MD, co-sponsored by Potowmack Chapter and the Fairfax County Park Authority. Leader is Cris Fleming. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Limited enrollment. \$6. Reservation deadline is June 5. Call 703-642-5173 for reservations and details.

Prince William Wildflower Society

April 16 Field Trip to Great Falls Park. 10 a.m. Call Marion Blois Lobstein 703-536-7150.

April 22 Wildflower Walk at Ball's Bluff. 2-4 p.m. Call Marion.

April 22 Wildflower Walk at Hellwig Park. 9 a.m. Call Elaine Haug 703-670-2347.

April 29 Canoe Trip at Leesylvania State Park. 4-6 p.m. Fee. Meet in Veteran's Park. Call Elaine Haug.

May 6 Wildflower Walk at Locust Shade Park. 9 a.m. Call Elaine Haug.

May 6-7 Fourth Annual Wildflower Garden Tour. Sat 10-5; Sun 1-5. Three member gardens and new native plant garden at NOVA campus. Call Helen Walter, tour coordinator, for details 703-754-8806. Brochure available by mid April.

May 13 Annual Plant Sale. 9-12 noon. Grounds of Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Call Roxetta Wyer 703-361-8615.

May 13 Canoe Trip to Mason Neck. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fee. Meet at Veteran's Park. Call Elaine Haug.

May 15 Wildflower Photography presented by John Brady. 7:30 p.m. Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas.



Upcoming Events



James Madison University Arboretum

James Madison University is developing an Arboretum on its east campus near the Convocation Center. This project will provide an on-campus Arboretum at a state university readily available to students, professionals, gardeners, and horticulturists, for education, research, and demonstration, and a pleasant setting for the public to enjoy nature. The facility is funded by private gifts to the JMU Foundation. It is open to the public at no cost.

The area is a 33-acre tract of oak-hickory forest with a diverse topography. In addition to the indigenous plants, native species are being added to the complex. Emphasis will be on native species with developed cultivars and varieties being limited. The Arboretum is divided into major

sections: a forest savannah in the lowland surrounding a pond, slopes along the entrance containing many species of rhododendron, lawn surrounding the Interpretive Center with adjacent bulb beds beneath a forest canopy, and the back woodland which remains in a natural state. A protected environment for endangered and threatened species will be developed.

The official dedication of the JMU Arboretum will be held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, April 28. The public is welcome. For information contact Dr. Norlyn L. Bodkin, Director, JMU Arboretum, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

Conference of Wildflower and Native Plant Organizations

The National Wildflower Research Center is sponsoring a conference on May 5-7 in Austin, Texas, to be attended by 25 native plant societies. VNPS President, Nicky Staunton, and past President, Mary Pockman, plan to attend.

The meeting is designed to give invited organizations the opportunity to describe purposes, programs, and future goals.

Group discussions are planned to share information on mutual interests and concerns. The goal is to increase interaction among our organizations and to explore cooperative project opportunities.

Tours of central Texas wildflower sites are planned, and these will include a tour of the LBJ Ranch before a dinner at the Ranch.

VIRGINIA'S RAREST PLANTS

Buckleya distichophylla (Piratebush)

Buckleya distichophylla, a member of the sandalwood family, *Santalaceae*, is restricted to a handful of southern Appalachian sites in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The shrub's normally inconspicuous foliage should be sought in fall when it turns bright yellow. Even then, your searches for this rarity will be difficult because the habitat, currently defined as wooded slopes and banks, is so abundant.

Like many other members of the *Santalaceae*, piratebush is parasitic. Most frequently, the shrub occurs with hemlock (*Tsuga*), the tree believed to be its preferred host. Using a modified root known as an haustoria, the piratebush will attach to the host's roots and remove needed nutrients and water. Piratebush will produce much of its food through its own greenery. In fact, recent greenhouse experiments have

shown that the shrub can survive without attachment to any host.

Perhaps as much as any Virginia plant, the piratebush has benefitted from recent



Landon Azalea Garden Festival

On May 5-7, Landon School will host its 36th annual festival at 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Highlights are the two-and-a-half acre Perkins Azalea Garden, a standard azalea flower show, and wildflower plant sale. Gretchen Minners, wildflower committee co-chair, is a VNPS member. Last year she donated 750 plants from her own garden. She has been named Honorary Chair of the '89 Festival. For a list of wildflowers for sale call 301-840-1454 or 869-3197. For general information call 301-320-3200.

Wildflower Symposium at Wintergreen

On May 12-14, Wintergreen is again sponsoring its Spring Wildflower Symposium. The weekend consists of hikes, field trips, slide presentations, lectures, and workshops led by experts from the northeast including VNPS members Donna Ware and Barbara Stewart, and Jefferson Chapter members. Full details can be found in the illustrated brochure available from Andy Dow, ext. 281, 804-325-2200. For overnight reservations call toll-free 1-800-325-2200.

conservation efforts. On the regulatory front, the shrub is now a candidate for listing as an endangered species on the federal and state level. Protection on a site-specific basis has progressed well also. The U.S. Forest Service is working to protect sites for this species in Jefferson National Forest. One of the Commonwealth's first Natural Area Preserves, Poor Mountain, recently protected through a partnership of The Nature Conservancy and the Virginia Department of Conservation, contains the world's largest single population of piratebush.

How fortunate that piratebush is receiving protection. The rare shrub produces compounds which have shown positive initial results in cancer research by researchers at Brigham Young University. This once again illustrates the practical value in rare species preservation, an effort requiring our support and deserving our pride.

Chris Ludwig
Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Finding Wildflowers in Virginia

Ball's Bluff

Ball's Bluff is located along the Potomac River in northeastern Loudoun County just north of Leesburg. At present the area is a rich undisturbed woodland between a small Civil War cemetery and the Potomac River. There are two main trails: a very narrow one going steeply down to the river and circling back up the bluffs and a wider one along the high bluff above the river. These trails are very rough and have not been improved for walkers.

The diverse habitats include oak-hickory woods, high rocky cliffs with views of the river and the Maryland shore, very steep hillsides, and river bottomlands. The presence of limestone-loving plants such as walking fern, twinleaf, green violet, and shooting star indicate calcareous soil at Ball's Bluff.

The steep trail down to the river displays a wide variety of wildflowers in mid-April. The woods are filled with typical spring flowers such as spring beauty, cut-leaved toothwort, star chickweed, dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, yellow corydalis, wild ginger, and Jack-in-the-

pulpit. Less common plants also occur on these bluffs including violet woodsorrel, sessile trillium, twinleaf (already fruited by the third week of April), sessile bellwort, blue cohosh, green violet, and the beautiful bright pink shooting star.

The trail along the river bottomland is a haze of blue from the flowering of masses of Virginia bluebells. At the base of the cliffs near the river trail, two unusual flowers are found -- the yellow form of sessile trillium and white trout-lily, a distinct species that is very rare in Virginia.

The high trail that bears left from the cemetery into the upland woods does not show such diversity of wildflowers but does have flowers of drier habitats such as bluets, rue-anemone, plantain-leaved pussytoes, bastard toadflax, and birdfoot violet. On the high rocks overlooking the river, lyre-leaved rockcress grows, as well as smooth rockcress and lots of early saxifrage.

Ball's Bluff has long been known as a rich area for early spring flowers but until recently, it has not been open to the public. In 1987, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority obtained 170 acres around



the cemetery but has not yet developed it as a park so there are no trail markers and no visitor facilities. No plant list is available at present. For more information, contact the park authority headquarters at 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039, telephone 703-352-5900.

To reach Ball's Bluff from Route 7 in Leesburg, take Route 15 by-pass north toward Frederick, Maryland. Go 1.5 miles on Route 15 and look for a small sign reading Ball's Bluff National Cemetery. Turn right here and continue on the bumpy, gravel road for 1 mile to the small walled cemetery. There is very limited parking space.

Cris Fleming
Education chair

Note: See proposed field trip notice under Wildflower Celebration listing for PWWS.

FROM NEAR AND FAR

Imitation Propagation

Wildflower gardeners should be wary of "imitation propagation," according to Bill Brumback, propagator for the New England Wild Flower Society. As more nurseries decline to sell "wild" collected native plants, he warns, others, in an apparent response to public pressure against wild collection, are beginning to sell plants that are difficult or impossible to propagate, such as trilliums and pink lady's slippers, at very low prices under such headings as "nursery grown." That term can apply to plants that are wild collected, then held in beds or containers at a "nursery" until they're sold. The word to look for in catalogs is "propagated." Gardeners can avoid semantic games, Brumback suggests, by patronizing nurseries that proudly and clearly state their ethics.

Lady's Slippers

It's well known that each year quantities of lady's slipper orchids are dug from the wild for garden use. It's less widely recognized that they have also been extensively collected by herbalists for use as a natural sedative. Good news, then,



that last year two herbal products trade associations passed resolutions calling for protection of lady's slippers, and at least one manufacturer[®] has announced that it will no longer use the roots of lady's slippers in its products.

Rare Insect Protected

The Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has acquired 60 acres of habitat for a tiger beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*) native to the Chesapeake Bay and threatened with extinction. Bethel Beach will be transferred to the state's Division of Natural Areas Conservation in a unique new partnership between the state and The Nature Conservancy to

protect the Commonwealth's finest remaining natural areas.

When Is A Bog Not A Bog?

An article in the March 1987 *National Geographic* called "Mysteries of the Bog" by Louise Levathes says: "Swamps are dominated by trees, marshes by grasses, and bogs by sphagnum mosses and heaths." A bog's only water source is precipitation. If it is fed by other waters such as streams and springs it is a fen.

Habitat Note

The Editor of the Shenandoah Chapter Newsletter saw the following on a poster in a small museum in the pine barrens of southern New Jersey: "In nature there is no right or wrong: only cause and effect." She goes on to say "Mother Nature, we are reminded, knows no righteousness. Events occur because conditions are right for them to occur, not because we want or don't want them to happen. When we have given our habitat too much of a good thing, it reacts, for it does not recognize a 'good thing'. It recognizes only that it has been thrown out of balance and must adapt, for achieving and maintaining balance is what life is about."

A Native Plants Collection for the State Arboretum of Virginia

The Orland E. White Arboretum in Clarke County has charted an ambitious future that will be of interest to VNPS members. The Arboretum, named the State Arboretum of Virginia in 1986, is located at the University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm. Established in 1929, Blandy is a 640-acre research station with a distinguished history in plant studies. Available to scientists and students are old-field, woodland, and wetland habitats, as well as the 135 acres devoted to the Arboretum.

The plant collections now include over 6000 trees and shrubs in about 50 families and 1000 species. Visually dominating are the conifers, including almost 50% of the world pine species and over 90% of the genera of temperate conifer families.

The ambience of the Arboretum is serene, with clusters of evergreen and deciduous trees arranged along two main axes. At their intersection is located the Quarters building. Dating from about 1826, the Quarters houses the research, teaching, and administrative staff of Blandy.

In keeping with its new role as the State Arboretum, Director Ed Connor and his staff have charted for development a strong native plants collection. The goals of the collection will be to maintain captive populations of native plants for preservation and conservation purposes, to educate the public and disseminate information about native plant species and habitats, and to demonstrate the aesthetic qualities and environmental benefits of using native plants in roadside, residential, and commercial landscaping. The State Arboretum plans an aggressive program in basic and applied research on native spe-

cies, the curation of definitive collections of species, ecotypes, and native plant associations, and educational programs for area schools, the public, and members of the commercial nursery trade.

The showcase of the new collection will be the Native Wildflower Demonstration Garden. It will be planted on the terraces located along a central axis of the Arboretum. Visitors approaching the building will be treated to an unfolding view of the



colorful terraces, thus enticing them to venture through the Arboretum to visit the Wildflower Garden. Once there visitors will see a gradient of plant successional habitats extending from full sun to full shade with plantings of associated native wildflowers. Native trees appropriate to each successional stage will create the shade gradient in wildflower beds along the sides of the terraces. The central beds will be planted with a mix of wildflowers to achieve color displays throughout spring, summer, and fall. Native shrubs will be planted to provide definition for the terrace borders.

The native plant collection will also include a "typical" mixed deciduous forest, located at the picnic area, and will feature

the more common native trees and shrubs, labeled, and planted in a naturalistic landscape. The goal here is to provide an educational setting in an area that is a frequent destination for school and family outings. The picnic area will also be a departure point for the native plants trail that will ultimately interconnect all of the native plant collections.

Other exciting developments include plans for a visitor center, horticultural display gardens, and expansion of educational programs. Work is now underway to secure the funding and public support needed to make these plans become reality. Director Connor is hoping to secure an expanded budget to increase staff, begin construction of the visitors center, new front entrance, and new loop drive, and to complete the master plans. Simultaneously the staff is applying for funding to begin basic research on native wildflowers, research needed to enable creation of the Demonstration Garden. The director speculates, "When the master planning for the native plant collection has been completed, we will be in position to formulate and launch an aggressive campaign for public support and funding for the project. The actual timing depends on the availability of funding, but we hope to finish the planning phase in the Fall of 1989."

The public is welcome to visit the State Arboretum, located on US-50 east of Winchester, from dawn to dusk every day of the year. Information on three self-guided walking trails and a loop drive are available at an information pavilion located next to the visitors parking area.

Christine A. Flanagan
Assistant Curator

State Arboretum Needs Seed/Cutting Sources

The staff of the State Arboretum is seeking help in locating sites where seed or cuttings of selected species might be collected for propagation at Blandy.

The species targeted for addition to the Arboretum's nursery

Friends of the State Arboretum

VNPS is a member of the Friends of the State Arboretum, a nonprofit organization chartered to support and promote research, education, and community service at the Arboretum and Blandy Experimental Farm. It welcomes members from all parts of Virginia. If you are interested in joining and receiving the newsletter *Arbor Vitae*, write to the Arboretum, P.O. Box 175, Boyce, VA 22620.

in 1989 are listed below; except as noted, propagation will be from seed. Many are common species that are represented in the Arboretum by only a few specimens, or not at all. If you can suggest appropriate collecting sites, please get in touch with Arboretum Curator Christopher F. Sacchi, at P.O. Box 175, Boyce, VA 22620.

Acer pensylvanicum, *A. spicatum*, *A. nigrum*; *Amelanchier arborea*, *A. sanguinea*; *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*; *Carya ovata*, *C. cordiformis*, *C. tomentosa*, *C. glabra*; *Cladastris kentukea (lutea)*; *Euonymus atropurpureus*; *Fraxinus americana*; *Hamamelis virginiana*; *Mitchella repens*; *Myrica cerifera*; *Nyssa sylvatica*, *N. aquatica*, *N. biflora*; *Osmanthus americanus*; *Ostrya virginiana*; *Pachistima canbyi*; *Populus gradidentata* (cuttings); *Quercus coccinea*; *Salix caroliniana*, *S. eriocephala* (both cuttings); *Sorbus americana*; and *Tilia americana*.

VNPS LIBRARY

Our library is small but contains books, slides, and two slide shows. Among our books are: Art, **A Garden of Wildflowers**; Art, **The Wildflower Gardener's Guide**; Dielieman, **Natural Landscaping**; Taylor, **Handbook of Wildflower Cultivation**; Bruce, **How to Grow Wildflowers**; Stokes, **A Guide to Enjoying Wildflowers**; Martin, **Wildflowers of the C&O Canal**; Mohlenbrock, **Where Have All the Wildflowers Gone**; and Porter, **Rare and Endangered Vascular Plant Species in VA**, (1979.)

Three new additions recently ordered are: Harvill et al., **Atlas of the Virginia Flora**, 1986 edition; Center for Plant Conservation, **1988 Plant Conservation Resource Book**; and Virginia Natural Heritage Program, **December 1988 List of Rare Plants of Virginia**.

The signature slide collection has been reorganized (many of the original slides have unfortunately faded), but the collection has been revitalized by a gift of over 400 slides from Hal Horwitz.

The two slide shows are: **Roots of Life**, produced by the World Wildlife Fund and Garden Clubs of America (with cassette tape narration), and **Conservation**, prepared by VWPS in 1983 (with written text). Our Education chair is preparing a new presentation, **Natural Habitats of Virginia**, which she hopes to have ready by Fall.

Any VNPS member or Chapter wishing to borrow books, slides, or slide shows should contact Cris Fleming, Education chair, 3508 Shepherd Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Tele: 301-657-0289.

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Books for Spring

As the ground warms up and new green shoots emerge, remember that VNPS has some excellent wildflower books for sale. For forays into the field, consider Earl Core's **Spring Wild Flowers of West Virginia** (\$6.17); Oscar W. Gupton and Fred C. Swope, **Wildflowers of Tidewater Virginia** (\$13.44); the new VNPS checklist of Virginia's ferns and fern relatives (\$1.25); and Gupton and Swope, **Wild Orchids of the Middle Atlantic States** (\$15.06).

Gardeners will find a wealth of ideas

and information in Harry Phillips' **Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers** (\$17.62) and in Henry Art, **A Garden of Wildflowers** (\$15.53).

Prices include sales tax and mailing costs. Send your order, with check payable to VNPS, to VNPS-Orders, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

Kalmia Cultivars

In ***Kalmia: The Laurel Book II*** (Timber Press, 1988), Richard A. Jaynes brings much-needed help to gardeners interested in the cultivars of mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) that are now widely offered in nursery catalogs and garden centers. These plants have the advantage that, unlike the species, they are all nursery-propagated, but the descriptions following their appealing names aren't always complete.

In this revised edition of **The Laurel Book** (1975), Jaynes, a pioneer in breeding mountain laurel, briefly describes each of the cultivars that have been named, and includes color photographs of many. In addition to commonly given information about bud and flower color, he notes variations in habit, foliage color and form, which may be just as important. In some instances he highlights the differences between generally similar cultivars such as 'Ostbo Red' and 'Olympic Fire'.

Most of the book is a comprehensive review of the seven *Kalmia* species indigenous to North America -- their history, botany, taxonomy, genetics, culture, and propagation. Both expert and enthusiastic, Jaynes is an engaging guide to these distinctively American plants.

Plant Conservation Resource Book

A new **Plant Conservation Resource Book** provides a comprehensive listing of public and private agencies and officials concerned with plant conservation programs in the U.S., together with state-by-state information on rare plant lists and pertinent laws. To be updated periodically, it is available for \$9.00 (including postage) from the Center for Plant Conservation, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Southern Wildflowers

Laura Martin, author of three previous books on wildflowers, describes seventy

southern plants in her latest book. She gives name origins, explores many practical uses for wildflowers, and gives advice on cultivating and tending these plants. Seventy original watercolor paintings by Mauro Magellan (in color) illustrate each description. The book is available in April from Longstreet Press, 2150 Newmarket Parkway, Suite 102, Marietta, GA 30067 for \$29.95.

New Source List

The first of three new VNPS nursery source lists will be available in April. This one, covering retail sources of plants, will be followed in the next few months by a list of seed sources and one of wholesale sources (of woody plants only). The three together will replace the current source list, and like it, will focus on sources for species native to Virginia. The new format reflects striking growth of firms selling nursery-propagated plants and responsibly collected seed.

For a copy of the retail source list for plants, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to VNPS-Orders, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003. For seed or wholesale sources, ask for the current list as well; it will remain available until the new lists are complete.

HAVE YOU READ...?

Juanita S. Mayola of the Wildflower Gardeners wrote a short article on "Wild Flower Preservation" in the Winter 1988 bulletin **Capital Gardener**, published by the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The latest issue of **Flower & Garden** (April 1989) features an editorial and lead article on "Wildflowers -- The Case for Native Plants" by Neil Diboll, co-owner of Prairie Nursery in Westfield, Wisconsin. Mr. Diboll discusses the recent interest in meadow gardening and the many wildflower seed mixes that are available. He breaks down the three basic groups: native, naturalized, and non-naturalized plants. A page is devoted to an interview with Lady Bird Johnson who talks about her projects and gives growing advice. Further on another article tells us that "Butterfly Gardens Are Soaring," and tells how the idea started in Europe, particularly England, in the early 1980's, and is now spreading in the U.S.

Winter Workshop in Richmond -- A Big Success

On Saturday, March 11, 27 VNPS members gathered at the Gottwald Science Center, University of Richmond, for a Winter Workshop whose theme was "Tips and Techniques for Successful Field Trips." Cris Fleming, Education chair, organized the event, Marion Blois Lobstein was co-leader, Nicky Staunton handled the publicity, and Dr. John Hayden, Department of Biology, acted as our host.

Cris and Marion led us very skillfully through a 20-point checklist from planning, pre-trip, trip, and follow-up phases, and initiated a brain-storming session with questions and answers afterward in the lab. Outdoors on the campus they showed

us how **not** to lead a field trip, and after lunch we drove to the James River Park and Pony Pasture, where successful techniques were shown, with participants taking turns as leader. A few hardy native plants were found in bloom, including a common blue violet (*Viola papilionacea palmata*) on a mild and sunny afternoon beside the rapids of the James. A most picturesque setting and a fitting conclusion to a successful day.

Please let VNPS board members (particularly Cris Fleming or Nicky Staunton) know of your suggestions for next year's Winter Workshop. It's never too early to plan ahead!

Horticulture Resource Group Formed

At its March meeting the VNPS Board of Directors authorized formation of a horticulture resource group. At-large board member Nancy Arrington will serve as coordinator.

The group will handle inquiries and activities relating to wildflowers and other native plants as they are used in cultivation. The coordinator will be a resource person to chapters and in cooperation with other board members will coordinate the development of publications and programs to educate members and the public about landscape and garden use of native species.

The horticulture resource group is envisioned as an informal network consisting of chapter representatives and other advisors. It is hoped that each chapter will have at least one member and large chapters will have more to represent adequately geographic diversity. The network

will also include experts in various horticulture related areas such as propagation, meadow gardening, woody plants, and ferns, who can be called on for specific guidance.

Society members with a strong interest in horticulture are cordially invited to join the advisory group. Let your chapter president know that you can help or contact Nancy Arrington, P.O. Box 462, Manassas, VA 22110, 703-368-8431.



Springtime with Virginia native plants is exhilarating.

Join us for Wildflower Celebration '89 --

*And encourage **everyone** to join us -- as members and participants.*

CHAPTER NEWS

Prince William

Wildflower Society

Roadside Planting Project

PWWS has been invited to co-sponsor a roadside planting project of Virginia native plants at the entrances and exits to I-66 in Manassas by the Centennial Garden Club of Manassas. The conservation chairman of Centennial will coordinate the project with the Department of Transportation, and members of PWWS will serve as landscape consultants, sources for seeds and plants, and planting helpers.

To get the project started, Mr. Phil Baker, botanist/horticulturist in the Environmental Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation in Richmond, spoke and showed slides on Roadside Planting at Centennial's March 9 meeting. PWWS members were invited.

Wildflowers Through Art

Sharon-Morris Kincheloe and her husband, Alan, were the guests at our March 20 meeting. The Kincheloes are members of the Blue Ridge Chapter. Sharon is a colored pencil illustrator and Alan makes the engravings and frames the drawings. They shared with us their techniques, tools of the trade, and artwork, and showed beautiful slides of their cabin home in the woods and of their travels in search of wildflower subjects. Scenes of Alaska and Hawaii were particularly awe-inspiring. Members and friends of PWWS brought wildflower related art of all types to display. It was a great evening of "show and tell" enjoyed by all.

Virginia Native Plant Society

formerly the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

P.O. Box 844

Annandale, VA 22003

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Summer 1989



Bulletin

Vol. 8, No. 2

A publication of the VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
(formerly the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society)

Twelve Plant Species Listed as Endangered

On May 17, the Board of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services voted unanimously to list a dozen plant species as endangered in the Commonwealth. The plants newly protected by the Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act are *Arabis serotina* (shale barren rock cress), *Bacopa stragula* (mat-forming water-hyssop), *Buckleya distichophylla* (piratebush), *Carex polymorpha* (variable sedge), *Fimbristylis perpusilla* (Harper's fimbristylis), *Helonium virginicum* (Virginia sneeze-weed), *Helonias bullata* (swamp pink), *Ilex collina* (long stalked holly), *Iliamna corei* (Peter's mountain mallow), *Nestronia umbellula* (nestronia), *Scirpus ancistrochaetus* (Northeastern bulrush), and *Spiraea virginiana* (Virginia spiraea).

All but one of these plant species are extremely rare not only in Virginia but throughout North America. Four are already listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (rock cress, swamp pink, Peter's mountain mallow, and Virginia spiraea); all the oth-

ers are candidates for such listing. (The water-hyssop may be "lumped" with a more widespread species and therefore deleted as a candidate for federal protection. Virginia populations of both species are threatened in any case.)



Helonias bullata

The listing culminated six years' effort by the Virginia Native Plant Society to strengthen the still-small Virginia program to conserve our endangered flora. The 12 species listed in May join just three others listed previously - Virginia round-leaf birch, small whorled pogonia, and ginseng (listed as threatened in order to regulate trade in its roots). North Carolina, for example, lists more than 90 endangered and threatened plant species and is considering adding 22 more.

Despite the unanimous vote by the VDACS Board, further efforts are needed to support the program. Some Board members asked questions

which revealed that they do not understand how habitat factors can restrict species' range (some feared that the sedge might become a pest). Several members also pressed for reasons why these particular plant species are "worth" saving - what economic value do they have? Other questions concerned the cost of protecting these and other species likely to be listed in the future.

If the endangered plants program is to succeed and additional species are to be listed, we must persuade Board members that protecting rare plants is important and **demonstrate that Virginia's citizens want such protection.** Participation by many VNPS members in such efforts is vital. We are exploring sponsorship of a symposium for Board members to introduce them to the Society and to educate them about our beautiful and fascinating flora.

Faith Campbell

Included with this *Bulletin* is a copy of the new brochure on Virginia's endangered plants program, produced by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. VNPS has encouraged production of this brochure, and Faith Campbell wrote the first draft of the text. For additional copies, write to Dan Schweitzer, VDACS, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23219.

Plan now to be part of the VNPS Annual Meeting weekend September 22-24! Potowmack Chapter hosts the weekend this year, with the center of activities the Sheraton-Reston, in Washington's outer suburbs. Turn inside for more information, including details about lodging.

From the President

A flurry of emerald and crimson in flight, a ruby throated hummingbird hurries from blossom to blossom gaining nourishment to power flight through life.

An intense week of wildflower stimulation in every sense - sight (fields of Texas gaillardia), touch (Texas Bull Nettle), smell (forest Fragrance in George Washington National Forest, home of the endangered swamp pink), sounds (voices sharing knowledge, experiences, concern and enjoyment of America's flora) - brings eagerness to continue the dialogues and friendships initiated during these seven days.

The National Wildflower Research Center under a grant from the American Conservation Foundation sponsored a Conference of Wildflower and Native Plant Organizations. Thirty North American organizations were invited. VNPS was represented by the present and past President. (Mary Pockman's report is further along in the **Bulletin**.)

Bob Glasgow, George Washington National Forest biologist and VNPS member, organized a workshop for district foresters on Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E). Representatives from the Nature Conservancy, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, and VNPS were present. The T&E Act provides a means to conserve endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Visiting the swamp pink and seeing a lake full of blooming golden club was impressive, as are the figures that our National Forests have 8 percent of the nation's land area and 30 percent of the endangered species.

The Northern Virginia Community Appearance Alliance 1989 Awards Program recognized outstanding designs of landscapes in Northern Virginia. One of the awards was given for the landscape design of a Hazel-Peterson project at Fair Lakes, Va. This design featured extensive retention of original mature hardwood trees and use of native sumac, wildflowers, and other native plants.

The week ended at Wintergreen, where a mountain resort and the Jefferson Chapter of VNPS offered classes, walks, a plant sale and the art of Barbara Stewart and Sharon Kincheloe. Hal Horwitz, of Richmond, presented a

dissolve slide show with crystalline music and extraordinarily fine wildflower photography.

The VDACS hearing on proposed listing of twelve endangered plant species was attended by the President and Conservation Chair Faith Campbell. This, too, is a learning experience. Protocol and political sensitivity are part of our work for our native plants.



Even hummingbirds rest. Having gorged on all of nature's profusion, they light briefly. And away they fly once more. Beauty and stimulation accompany them. You understand what is being said. They return "good" to earth. This day will end. Its efforts will energize and focus attention on what VNPS is really "about." That is, preserving the common wealth of Virginia's native flora. Botanists, horticulturists, researchers, conservationists, legislators, builders, landscapers, layfolk ... we all must educate everyone possible to preserve the natural habitat for our native plants. To use a little, but leave a lot in good condition for the future.

It is not only the life of our flora we are preserving, it is mankind's, ours. Keep nourishing yourself with Virginia's native flora treasures. Keep protecting them. Share your interest with your children. Vigilant, educated zeal will describe the type of "hummer" you are!

Nicky Staunton

BULLETIN

A publication of the
Virginia Native Plant Society

Nicky Staunton, President

Mary Pockman, Editor *pro tem*.

Barbara Stewart, Artist

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Editor's Note

ALL copy submitted for publication should be typed, double spaced with wide margins. Copy sent well in advance of each **Bulletin** deadline will be greatly appreciated. **Bulletin** deadlines for 1989 will be July 10 and October 9. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Suggestions are welcome regarding the new format, type style, and content. Changes will continue to take place as a new logo is developed and as new policies are formulated.

VNPS Annual Meeting Weekend

Friday, September 22 - Sunday, September 24

A weekend of learning, friendship, and fun, its theme Wetlands and Wetland Conservation. Potomack Chapter is host; the place is Reston, Virginia, at the Sheraton. Full details will be in the August Bulletin; here's the outline.

Introductory slide presentation Friday evening. Kent Minichiello follows the Potomac Valley from Harper's Ferry through the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain, relating the changing flora to the geology of the valley and the history of the river and the parallel C&O canal. A Professor of Mathematics at Howard University, Kent is an expert photographer and amateur botanist.

Field trips Saturday and Sunday. Education Chair Cris Fleming and Mary Pockman plan a full schedule of field trips to some of metropolitan Washington's wetlands and other treasured places. Included are Mason Neck, a marshy peninsula on the Potomac, by canoe; Fern Valley, the native plant collection at the U.S. National Arboretum; some of the one thousand acres of natural areas, including a beaver pond, in the planned community of Reston; and Roosevelt Island, an untamed area (except for the memorial to Theodore Roosevelt) in mid-Potomac.

Gala auction, exhibits, dinner, and program Saturday evening. During the reception following a brief business meeting, there will be silent bidding on plants, handcrafts, and other items, and time to enjoy varied exhibits -- and friends old and new. The featured speaker for the after-dinner program is Dr. Stanwyn Shelter, Curator of Botany and Assistant Director of the American Museum of Natural History. To his topic, conserving the flora of all kinds of wetland habitats, he brings the perspective of a highly-regarded botanist and a longtime advocate for conservation.

Lodging. Friday and Saturday evenings' activities will be at the Sheraton, also the meeting place for car-pooling for field trips. It's in the western outskirts of the metropolitan area, close to the Dulles Toll Road (Rt. 267) and readily accessible from I-66 or the Capitol Beltway (I-495).

The Sheraton is holding a block of rooms for VNPS until September 8; later reservations will be accepted if space is available. The rate is \$59 (plus tax), single or double. **Please note:** This rate and those shown for other motels are weekend rates per night; they are subject to availability, and they may not apply without an advance reservation. **MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY!** For reservations at the Sheraton, phone 800 325-3535 or 703 620-9000, or send your request to Sheraton International Conference Center, 11810 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 22091. Be sure to mention VNPS, as there must be 10 reservations to guarantee the rate. A deposit of one night's room charge is required to hold a reservation.

For those who prefer to stay in a smaller motel, those listed below are within about 10 minutes of the Sheraton. Rates per unit are approximate and do not include tax. All are located in Herndon (22070).

Comfort Inn, 200 Elden St.; 703 437-7555; \$45.

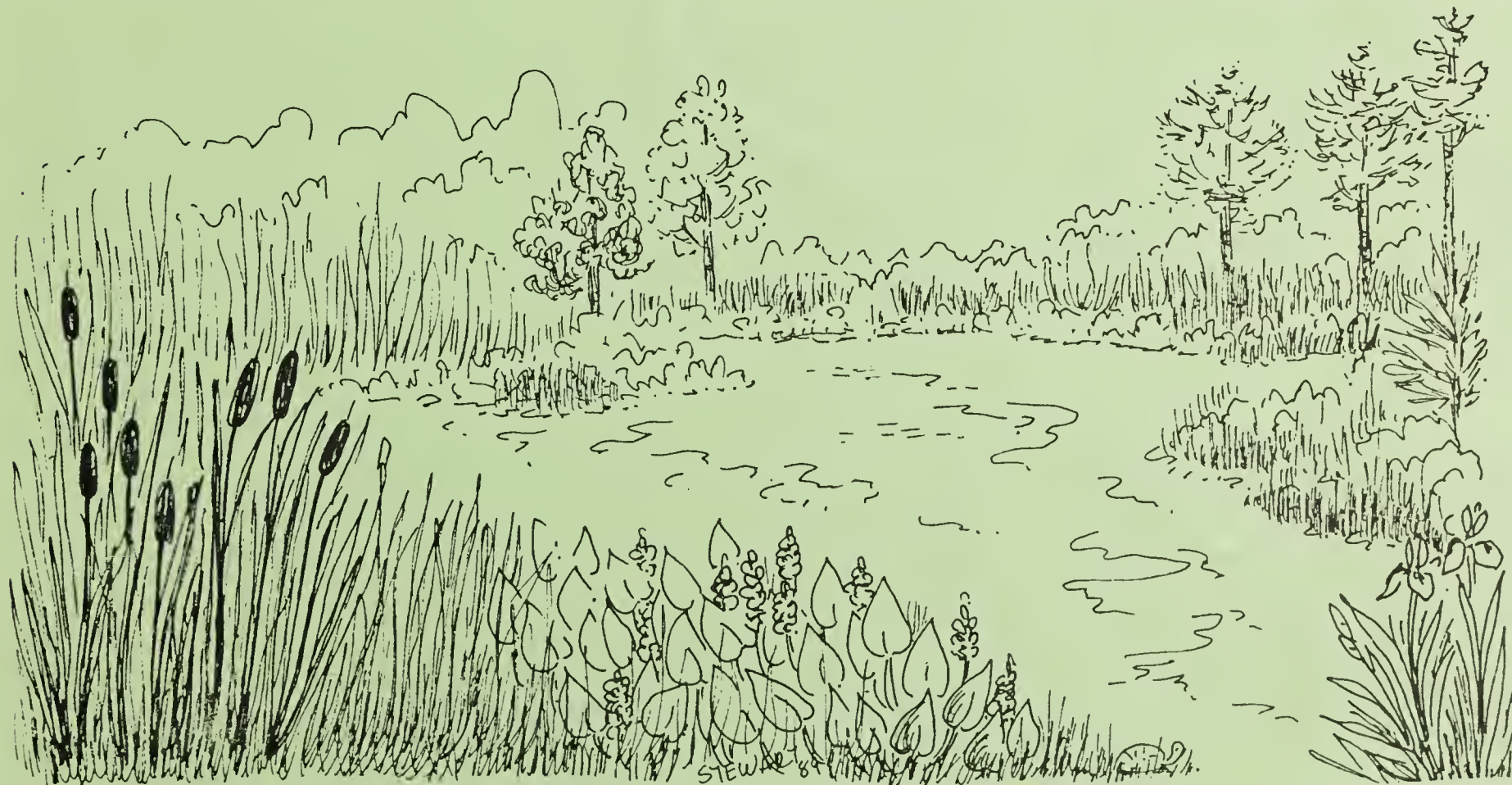
Courtyard by Marriott, 533 Herndon Pkwy; 703 478-9400; \$49.

Residence Inn by Marriott, 315 Elden St.; 703 435-0044. Suites, each with fully equipped kitchenette. Studio (queen bed) \$59. Two-story suite, 1 bedrooms (1 queen, 1 double) 2 baths, \$84.

Wellesley Inn, 485 Elden St.; 703 478-9777; \$40.

First Call for the Auction

Be thinking about what you can donate for the annual Gala Auction at the VNPS Annual Meeting Weekend. The success of this annual fun- and fund-raising event depends on you! Among the most popular items are home or nursery propagated plants, handmade items, small paintings and drawings, and books. Questions? Ask your chapter's auction chairman, or send a postcard to VNPS.



VIRGINIA'S RAREST PLANTS

Micranthemum micranthemoides (Micranthemum)

When European explorers journeyed into our Virginia estuaries, the Chickahominy and the Potomac among others, traversing to where the water was quite fresh yet still tidal, they may have landed on shores carpeted by species restricted to the freshwater intertidal zone. *Micranthemum micranthemoides*, a member of the figwort family, *Scrophulariaceae*, is one of these species.

Today, approximately 350 years later, many of our freshwater intertidal species have become quite rare. *Micranthemum* far and away heads this list. No human is known to have laid eyes on the species in the last 40 years. So botanists, modern day explorers of our natural world, roam these same shores in late August and September in hopes of catching a glimpse of our rarest intertidal species.

In New York, New Jersey, Delaware,

Maryland, and Virginia, the original range of *Micranthemum*, botanists have searched in vain. Many combinations of factors may be responsible for the disappearance of *Micranthemum* and other freshwater intertidal species. The restriction of a species to one habitat type or geographic area is known as "endemism". Eliminate or damage an endemic species' only habitat, and you may lose the species. Scientists have speculated that along with siltation and other water pollution, the wake of motorboats has contributed to the disappearance of *Micranthemum*.

The motorboat wake theory is best



considered in light of the text of Robert Tatnall in his 1946 *Flora of Delaware and the Eastern Shore*. Here Tatnall wrote, in a period when motor boat use was a small fraction of present day levels, that *Micranthemum* was merely uncommon in its habitat, not even suggesting today's scarcity. Consider also that *Micranthemum* is a delicate creeping annual that prefers tidal mud flats and gravelly shores of the intertidal zone, a habitat damaged easily by the wake of a passing boat.

Speculation aside, *Micranthemum micranthemoides* is currently a candidate for listing as a State Endangered Species by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). When and if this species is located, the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, housed in the Department of Conservation, will work with VDACS to assure listing by the Commonwealth.

Chris Ludwig

Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Coming Events

Virginia Growth Management Forum

The Virginia Growth Management Forum, a major conference to explore approaches to environmentally sound and sustainable economic growth, will be held September 14-16 in Williamsburg. Being planned by an independent steering committee, the Forum is based on the conviction that economic decision-making and planning for environmental protection are two aspects of the same commitment to a vital, healthy society.

The Forum represents a broad and inclusive effort to find common ground among individuals and organizations of varied interests. The Conservation Council of Virginia, which initiated the idea for such a conference, calls it "a strong effort to have business and environmental people work and plan together, and to envision a Virginia

where business, economic and environmental planning are parts of one process, not separate efforts playing winners and losers."

Through plenary meetings and concurrent sessions for smaller groups, the Forum will address a variety of issues. Among them are Virginia's growth policy; innovative growth management efforts; protection of sensitive environmental areas; Virginia's youth, population growth, and the future; threats to the viability of key Virginia industries; regional challenges, including Chesapeake Bay issues; and recycling and energy conservation.

Additional information is available from Ira Kaufman, Legacy International, 111 S. Patrick St., Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 549-3630.

Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants

The annual Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants will be held July 27-29 on the campus of Western Carolina University, in Cullowhee, NC. As always, this year's conference offers a varied menu of programs and exhibits, touching on many different aspects of the landscape use of native plants, of interest to both amateurs and professionals. Renowned ecologist Eugene Odum will speak on "Diversity in the Landscape" at the opening session. Inno-

ventions this year include a full morning of programs on a single topic, meadows, and a program of preconference field trips.

For more information, call Jim Horton, (704) 227-7244, about the program, or Sue DeBord, (704) 2277397, about housing and meals; or write to Sue DeBord, Office of Continuing Education and Summer School, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

Mount Rogers Field Trip

On the weekend of July 15, all VNPS members are welcome to join a Jefferson Chapter field trip to the Mount Rogers area, in southwestern Virginia. The group will include members who grew up near Mount Rogers and know the area well. Participants can either camp or stay in a motel. For details, call Katherine Malmquist at (804) 296-9325, or write her at 2527 Hydraulic Road, #27 (after June 28, 212 Greentree Park), Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Eastern Native Plant Alliance

The second annual meeting of the Eastern Native Plant Alliance, composed of organizations that promote and demonstrate native plant conservation, will be held at Fletcher, NC, July 29-30. By providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among native plant societies, arboreta and botanical gardens, propagating nurseries, and other organizations concerned with native plants, ENPA seeks to foster the development of a unified conservation message.

VNPS participates in ENPA, and has done so from the first of the discussions that led to its formation. If you know of other organizations, especially regional or local groups, that you think should be invited to this meeting, please get in touch with Mary Pockman, who is on the ENPA steering committee, at 7301 Hooking Rd., McLean, VA 22101, or (703) 356-7425.

Finding Wildflowers on Vacation

Searching out local wildflowers can enrich summer vacations, whether it's the focus of a trip, a change of pace, or a refreshing break in a long day's travel.

Some areas are justly famous for their wildflowers. The Great Smokies in spring, Mount Rainier in summer, the bright, ground-hugging wildflowers above the treeline in Rocky Mountain National Park are all familiar. But in less-known areas far from your usual haunts, it's not always easy to learn the best places to go.

Serendipity can work, of course. Along the highway through Bear Tooth Pass, on the northern edge of Wyoming, the wildflowers were breathtaking; we saw them simply because that was the way to get from Yellowstone to Billings. Luck can also let you down, though, and help is available.

There are books. The *Audubon Society Field Guides to Natural Places*, for instance, identify natural areas that are noted for wildflowers. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's *American Gardens: A Traveler's Guide* lists some 250 public gardens, of all kinds and sizes; many have wildflower display gardens or natural areas rich in wildflowers. Standard travel guides usually stint natural areas, and even public gardens, in favor of "active" recreation, but even in them, close reading can turn up a few gems.

State native plant societies can often direct travelers to areas with the most interesting wildflowers at a particular time. The New England Wild Flower Society keeps an up-to-date list of such organizations, and the VNPS can provide addresses for many. State tourism offices can also help.



Especially useful where flowering time depends on unpredictable rainfall are seasonal wildflower hotlines. These are the ones I know of: For Utah, (801) 581-4969 beginning April 1; for Arizona, (602) 941-2867, beginning in March; for Texas, from mid-March through May, (512) 329-3900 from a push-button phone, and at the signal, 5565. In California, call (619) 767-4684 for Anza-Borrego State Park, east of San Diego, from February through April; (805) 724-1180 for the Poppy Reserve, in March; and (805) 948-1322 for the Antelope Valley area, in April.

But perhaps the best way to find wildflowers on vacation - or at home, for that matter - is through the grapevine of wildflower enthusiasts. Here, for this summer's wildflower travelers, are a handful of the places I treasure.

Bartholomew's Cobble is a preserve named for a large limestone outcropping, a cobble, on a bend in the Housatonic River, near Ashley Falls, in the southwest corner of Massachusetts. It also includes a wooded hill with a meadow at the top. Under mature trees, on steep cliffs, in open areas wet and dry, there are wildflowers and ferns from spring to fall. Of special note are the limestone-loving species such as walking fern.

Vernon Black Gum Swamp, preserved by the Town of Vernon in southern Vermont, is dominated by massive black gums, *Nyssa sylvatica*, a species now found this far north only in isolated stands. Along the trail around the swamp are mountain and sheep laurel, hollies, viburnums, lush ferns, and many northern wildflowers. The wildflowers are at their peak in June; later in the summer the Swamp is a delightfully cool, shadowy refuge from midday heat. Part of the fun is getting directions from the friendly Town Clerk's office.

Most visitors come to Acadia National Park for Maine's rocky coast and mountains, but within the Park, at Sieur de Mont Springs, is **The Wild Gardens of Acadia**, a Bar Harbor Garden Club project. It's small but intensively planted, throughout the season an excellent introduction to the plants of Mount Desert Island's forests, bogs, mountains, and shores.

Jennings State Park is in far western Pennsylvania, on PA 8 north of Butler. Across the road from its Environmental Education Center is a grassy field that in



late summer is brilliant with many species of wildflowers. Of special interest is the plentiful blazing star, a disjunct population of *Liatris spicata*. Among the flowers of a wetter, partly shaded edge is a mass of scarlet bee balm.

Virgin tallgrass prairie in among car dealerships in Chicago's suburbs? Yes, on Milwaukee Avenue, between Glenview and Niles, IL, at the **James Woodworth Prairie Preserve**. It's a tiny remnant - only about five acres - and thus vulnerable, but for now it offers a glimpse of the grasses and wildflowers that once stretched across these plains. From an interpretive center and prairie restoration garden - where some recent history is visible in traces of a go-cart track - a path takes visitors into the prairie itself.

The **Elosie Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary**, in Lyndale Park, Minneapolis, is another urban wildflower oasis. It has a natural bog, a swamp, prairie and woodland habitats, and when we were there in the middle of a scorching day, it was alive with butterflies and bees.

Mary Pockman

Now where have you found wildflowers? In this column VNPS members can share special places - not fragile habitats nor the sites of rare or endangered species, but places you enjoy for their beauty and variety of species, that you can without misgivings suggest to people you don't yet know. The Bulletin invites your contributions, brief or detailed, about places large or small, in Virginia or elsewhere.

-MP, editor pro tem

Conference Builds Native Plant Network

New opportunities for the exchange of ideas among organizations concerned for native plant conservation were opened by a Conference of Wildflower and Native Plant Organizations last month.

Under a grant from the American Conservation Association, the National Wildflower Research Center invited about thirty such organizations across the U.S. to meetings in Texas. Of those that participated, about two-thirds are native plant societies or botanical gardens and arboreta. The rest are national conservation organizations or groups whose activities are less easily categorized.

Throughout this conference, like many others, much that was valuable took place informally, as participants got to know each other and discussed specific issues and broad interests over meals, during walks, and between sessions. Formal sessions focused on five topics: conservation of natural areas; native plant propagation; revegetation or reestablishment plantings; landscaping and gardening with

wildflowers native plants; and endangered species. (Broad areas of overlap among these topics were very evident.)

The wide-ranging discussions produced as many questions and cautions as confident answers. One recurring theme was the central importance of conserving natural areas and protecting plants in their natural habitats. Another was the importance of regional or even local distinctiveness - in protecting the integrity of genotypes; in evoking a sense of place, so that Vermont looks like Vermont, California like California; in site-specific planting and management.

Some of the liveliest exchanges were on issues related to restoring known historical plant communities, creating appropriate natural landscapes on bare ground, and "enhancing" existing landscapes. Revegetation and restoration is clearly an area of growing interest as opportunities to preserve pristine tracts become fewer.

There was no session specifically on education, of great importance to VNPS, but how we approach the general public, and specific "public" such as land-use decision-makers, repeatedly came to the fore. Among the points that were emphasized: Stress the positive, what to do rather than what not to do. Teach processes, relationships, overall patterns, so that people can read landscapes rather than their individual parts. Avoid oversimplifying the issues or overpromoting any one solution. And recognize that others have valid points of view.

What will come of this conference in the long run is an open question. That it has fostered new connections among native plant organizations is in itself a valuable contribution.

Mary Pockman

1989 Conservation Legislation

In its short 1989 session the Virginia General Assembly passed a number of bills, effective July 1, that pertain to conservation.

One, HB 1748, separates the present Department of Conservation and Historic Resources into a Department of Historic Resources and a Department of Conservation and Recreation. Among the agencies affected by this change are the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, the Natural Area Preserves System, and a newly-authorized (SB 733) Virginia Registry of Natural Areas that are voluntarily protected.

Of importance for plant protection is an act (HB 1229) allowing public bodies to withhold information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the location of rare or endangered species or communities if revealing their whereabouts would jeopardize their integrity or existence.

The General Assembly also prohibited destructive recreational uses of wetlands (HB 1241); enabled certain localities to enact tree preservation and replacement ordinances (HB 1739); and prohibited drilling for oil in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (HB 1790). Amendments to the 1988-90 budget included \$250,000 for managing Natural Areas acquired through the Natural Heritage Program.

For a copy of any of the bills referred to above, call (804) 786-6530. For a summary of all 1989 legislation affecting Virginia's natural resources, write to the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources, 903 Ninth Street Office Building, Richmond, VA 23219.

HELP WANTED

VNPS has received requests for help with research for two new books. *Wildflowers*, one of the Time-Life series of Good Gardener's Guides, is in the works, and Bebe Smith has asked for information and advice about gardening with wildflowers. If you can help or can recommend a wildflower gardener to be consulted, write to Bebe Smith, Editorial Researcher, Redefinition, 700 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Mathew Tekulsky, author of *The Butterfly Garden*, is writing a book on gardening for hummingbirds and wants to hear from members who have attracted hummingbirds to their gardens. He'd like a list of plants, techniques of using feeders, and any hummingbird anecdotes. Write to him at 2407 Wilshire Blvd., #381, Santa Monica, CA 90403.

To Grow from Seed or Spores

More than eighty native species - showy wildflowers, woody plants, ferns, and carnivorous plants - are included in the 1989 seed distribution program of the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis until November 1, 1989, at \$1.00 per packet. To obtain a list of species available, send a legal-size SASE to North Carolina Botanical Garden Seed Distribution Program, Box 3375 Totten Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375.

FROM NEAR AND FAR

Practicing Phenology

If you look for parula warblers when the Virginia bluebells flower, or plant corn when new oak leaves are the size of a mouse's ear, you're building on phenology, the science of biological cycles as they respond to climate. If you'd like to learn more, *New York Times* garden editor Joan Lee Faust suggests "Plant Phenology in Eastern and Central North America," bulletin B677 (free) of the University of Vermont Extension Service, Morrill Hall, Burlington, VT 05405-0106.

What Is a Wetland?

For those concerned about wetlands, the *Bulletin* of the Native Plant Society of Oregon offers a summary of the criteria used by federal agencies to decide whether a particular site qualifies as a wetland: water, soil, and plants. First, water saturates the soil for at least one week of the growing season (many wetlands dry out in summer). Second, the soil is hydric, that is, flooded long enough during the growing season for oxygen to be excluded. (All soils with 50 percent or more organic matter are considered hydric.) Third, the vegetation includes hydrophytic plants, plants adapted to the saturated soil and anaerobic conditions. The Army Corps of Engineers requires that all three criteria be met; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires only one.

A Meadow of Annuals

In the May/June issue of *Fine Gardening* Robert E. Lyons of Virginia Polytechnic Institute suggests that gardeners frustrated in their efforts to establish a wildflower meadow try one composed entirely of annuals. Using annuals alone, he says, guarantees a good display and allows experiments with different combinations of species, although yearly replanting entails somewhat more work than maintaining the ideal perennial meadow. Lyons discusses the relative merits of direct seeding and transplanting seedlings in planting an annual meadow.

New in the News

The Boulder *Colorado Daily* has added a weekly column, *Enviroscope*, designed to add another dimension to its coverage of environmental issues. Public officials, environmental professionals, and private citizens are invited to submit articles that dis-

cuss a single environmental problem and offer a well-reasoned solution. Environmental news, the column's coordinator says, should "reach beyond the latest environmental mistake" toward a long-term vision.

Pestiferous Plants

A proposal to add crown vetch, autumn olive, and Amur honeysuckle to the list of plant species barred from Illinois has the backing of the Illinois Native Plant Society and the Illinois Environmental Council. The INPS calls these plants "serious problems in many areas and difficult to control." Under its 1987 Exotic Weed Act, Illinois already makes it illegal to sell, offer for sale, or plant Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and purple loosestrife.

Award for "Global ReLeaf"

The American Forestry Association has received one of the 1989 Chevron Conservation Awards for its "Global ReLeaf" project, designed to increase public understanding of global warming. The Conservation Awards Program honors individuals and organizations that further the protection and enhancement of natural resources in conjunction with sustaining economic vitality. The award to the American Forestry Association, which promotes the wise use and management of forest resources, is one of twenty-six given this year.

Native Notes

Native Notes, a new quarterly newsletter devoted to landscaping with native plants, is available for \$10 a year from Bluebird Nursery, Rt. 2, Box 550, Heiskell, TN 37828. Editor and publisher is Joseph "Leo" Collins, a founder of the Cullowhee, NC Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants.

Among the notes in the first issue is the National Garden Bureau's designation of 1989 as the "Year of the Wildflower." A free

promotional kit can be ordered from National Garden Bureau, Inc., 1311 Butterfield Rd., Suite 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Biodiversity Exhibit

Threats to Earth's biological diversity are examined in an exhibit, "Diversity Endangered," now on display at the Byrd Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park. In color photographs and informative text, the 15-panel exhibit presents several aspects of this worldwide problem. Produced by the Smithsonian Institution, the exhibit was bought for the Park by the Shenandoah Natural History Association.

For the Butterflies

John M. Coffman, a Shenandoah Chapter member who collects, rears, and trades butterflies, has seed propagated purple clematis (*Clematis verticillaris*) and Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia durior*) for sale at his home (no mail orders.) John says the clematis is found in only a few spots in his area of the Shenandoah Valley and that the pipevine, the foodplant of the Blue Swallowtail, is a must for anyone interested in butterfly gardening. Get in touch with him at Rt. 1, Box 331, Timberville, VA 22853, (703) 896-6414.

Ecological Restoration

Increasingly, conservationists are concerned not only with preserving natural areas but with regaining ground that has been lost. In response to this growing interest, the Society for Ecological Restoration and Management was organized in 1987 to draw together the diverse skills and perspectives needed in restoring and managing urban and rural natural areas, and wilderness. Membership is open to all interested individuals; members receive the twice yearly *Restoration and Management Notes*. For information, write SERM, University of Wisconsin Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711.

Thank You

Many thanks are due Governor Baliles and Delegate David Brickley of Prince William for accomplishing the recognition of Virginia Wildflower Celebration '89. We want to let them know how much we appreciate their continued support of the Virginia Native Plant Society.

You will note we have an acting editor for this issue. We regret that Jenifer Bradford felt it necessary to resign as chairman of Publications and editor. We appreciate her skilled development of our new *Bulletin*, and her work with VNPS will be missed. Our sincere "Thanks!" to you, Jeni

CHAPTER NEWS

Piedmont Chapter Expands

Piedmont Chapter has added Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Rappahannock, and Culpeper Counties to the two counties, Fauquier and Loudoun, of its original chapter area. The new chapter area, approved by the VNPS board in March, is not only larger but more diverse, extending into regions that are not "piedmont" in character.

The chapter already has a firm basis for reaching out on behalf of the VNPS to native plant enthusiasts in this northernmost region of Virginia. Interest and membership in the VNPS have been grow-

ing in the five added counties, and Piedmont Chapter has established cooperative programs with the Virginia State Arboretum, in Clarke County, and Lord Fairfax Community College, in Frederick. In addition, it has been closely involved with the G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area, much of which is in Warren.

Regional Checklists

Several chapters are working on checklists of native plants for their areas, as part of a long-term VNPS project to develop regional, seasonal checklists that cover all of Virginia. The *Spring Wildflower Checklist of the Blue Ridge Mountains*, compiled by Dorthy Bliss for the **Blue Ridge Wildflower Society**, covers both woody and herbaceous plants of the Blue Ridge, the Western Piedmont, portions of the Ridge and Valley, and the Cumberland Plateau. It's \$1.25 (tax and postage included) from the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society, P.O. Box 20385, Roanoke 24018.

The checklists for Northern Virginia are available from the **Prince William Wildflower Society**. One, compiled by Marion Blois Lobstein, covers spring wildflowers; the second, compiled by Marion Lobstein and Marie Davis, covers trees, shrubs, and woody vines. Each is \$2.00, inclusive; order from PWWS, P.O. Box 83, Manassas, VA 22110.

Botanical "Shopping Lists"

As a tool for contemporary plant explorers, **John Clayton Chapter** is preparing lists - one for each of the five counties and four independent cities in its area - of plant species likely to be present but

not documented by a herbarium specimen. These "shopping lists," which base documented locations on the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora*, are to be put on floppy disks. Education Chair Pat Baldwin is coordinating the project, in cooperation with Botany Chair Donna Ware.

Spring Events

Several chapters play an active part in spring wildflower events that draw participants from a wide area. At the Wintergreen Wildflower Symposium, **Jefferson Chapter** members led several walks and conducted a highly successful plant sale. All the plants the chapter sells at Wintergreen are propagated by chapter members from seed collected there the previous year. **Shenandoah Chapter** is one of the organizations cooperating with Shenandoah National Park in the Park's Spring Wildflower Weekend. This year half a dozen chapter members led walks or hikes or presented slide programs.

New Woody Plant Checklist

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Virginia: A Checklist is now available from VNPS. This statewide checklist and its companion, *Ferns and Fern Relatives*, supplement regional wildflower checklists being developed by chapters. Compiled by VNPS Botany Chair Dorothy Bliss, both are based on the second edition of the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora*. Each is \$1.25, including sales tax and postage, from VNPS-Orders, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003. Make checks payable to VNPS. The statewide checklists are also available from several chapters.

Nominations to Suggest?

As the VNPS Nominating Committee prepares a slate of nominees for election at the annual meeting, it welcomes members' suggestions. If you would be interested in serving on the VNPS board, or know someone you think should be considered, now is the time to get in touch with Nominating Committee chair Jocelyn Alexander, Rt. 1, Box 214A, Warrenton, VA 22186.

Under the Bylaws, a candidate may also be nominated by a petition signed by at least fifteen VNPS members. It must be submitted to the Nominating Committee, with the candidate's consent, not less than 45 days before the annual meeting. This year, petitions must reach the committee by August 9.

Virginia Native Plant Society

formerly the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society
P.O. Box 844
Annandale, VA 22003

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Bulletin

Vol. 8, No. 3

A publication of the **VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**
(formerly the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society)

Annual Meeting Weekend

September 22-24
Turn inside for details

Membership Renewal System Changes

In previous years, all one-year memberships expired on the same date, October 31, the end of the Society's fiscal year. The method was convenient for membership renewal notification, but was not fair for people who joined in mid-year. The Board of Directors has decided that members who join at any time after November 1, 1989, will receive a full year of membership benefits.

Members are requested to check the mailing label affixed to the *Bulletin*. An expiration date appears in the upper right corner, and will be included on all future mailing labels. It is hoped that this will be the only reminder necessary for membership renewal. If additional reminders must be sent, operating costs will rise significantly.

In that spirit, we ask that all members who are "due" October 31, 1989, send their renewals promptly, using the form provided in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Early renewals will extend membership a full twelve months past the current expiration date. Renewals received after expiration will extend membership one year from the date of entry. However, even a brief lapse of membership may cause you to miss a *Bulletin* or other important information!

Phoebe White
VNPS Membership Chair

VNPS ADOPTS NEW LOGO

Appearing below is the Virginia Native Plant Society's new logo, with the typeface chosen to complement it in the VNPS name. Introduction of this design on new letterhead and on VNPS publications marks the completion of an important step, announced last fall, in the transition to the Society's present name.

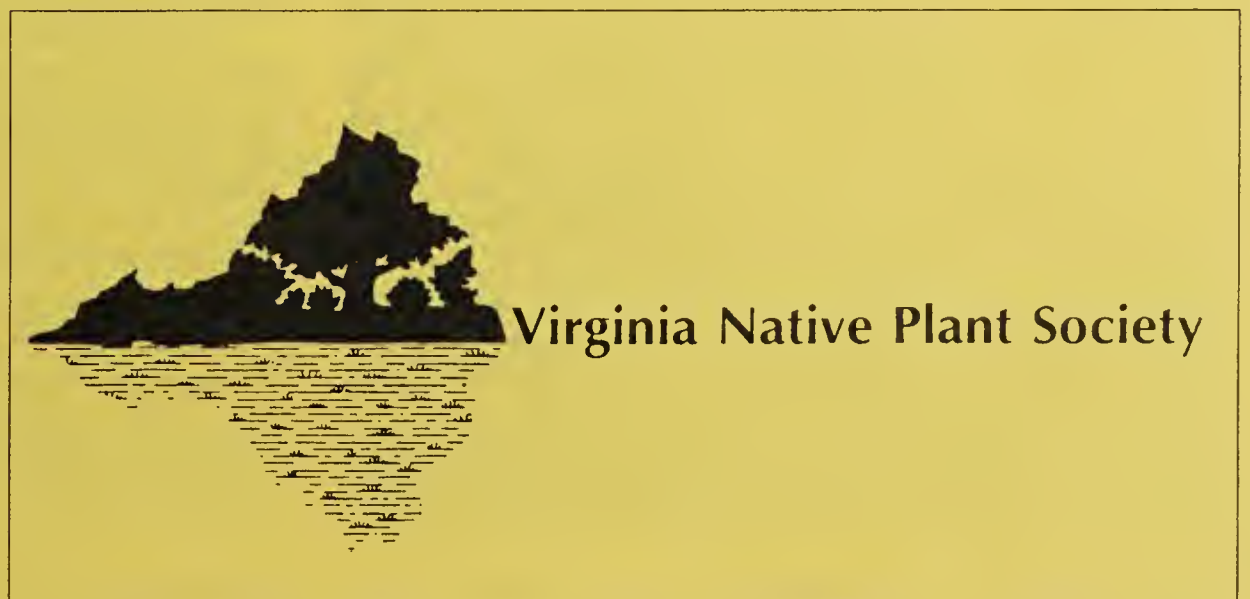
The finished design, approved by the board in June, was developed through a class project in Communication Design at the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. More than two dozen students developed logo and letterhead designs for the VNPS board to consider, following guidelines set by the board and working under the supervision of instructors Bob Capps, head of the Communication Design program, and Walt Ratcliff. From the resulting array of possibilities, the board selected this one.

Among major guidelines for the project were that the design convey the Society's primary emphasis on conserving Virginia's native plants, and that it communicate effectively to people with varied

kinds and levels of interest in native plants. This design's suggestion of Virginia's range of habitats had special appeal to the board in light of its decision a year ago to increase the Society's stress on habitat and ecological relationships.

The originator of the design selected is Alexandria resident Tom Lambdin. A photographer and graphic artist for a federal agency, he completed NVCC's Communication Design program in July and plans to continue studying graphic arts in a four-year college. He describes himself as "an outdoors person" who enjoys all kinds of sports; his favorites are whitewater canoeing and biking.

To facilitate selection of a design and to guide production of the new letterhead, the board appointed an ad hoc committee of Cynthia Long, John Clayton; Mary Painter, Piedmont; Mary Pockman, Potomack, chair; Roy Seward, Pocahontas; and Ken Wieringo, Blue Ridge. Former board members and others with particular knowledge of graphics were also consulted.



Virginia Native Plant Society

From the President

Vigilant. At a recent Conservation Council of Virginia meeting regarding the Chesapeake Bay, "vigilant" was the word applied to the actions necessary to protect our natural resources in Virginia. Not just coastal folks, but we who are upstream who unthinkingly add pollution and destruction to our watershed, which is necessary for healthy water, aquatic vegetation, and wildlife.

"Wetlands have historically been considered wastelands by landowners, developers, local governments, and legislators," and conversion to other uses has been "actively encouraged," according to *Virginia's Environment*, a publication of the Virginia Council on the Environment. However, in recent years there has been general recognition of their values - "flood control, groundwater recharge, water quality maintenance, erosion control, recreation, timber, and other natural products."

The Virginia Department of Agriculture's 1988 Report to the Governor cites "2,500 different endangered plant species documented" within Virginia, "at least nine of these species existing at no other location in the world." In Chris Ludwig's article in this issue, "Virginia's Rarest Plants," he writes of one of these, *Aeschynomene virginica*, sensitive joint vetch, whose habitat is freshwater intertidal wetlands.

The combination of a growing population (expected to reach 6,650,000 in about ten years), expanding construction, and continuing consumption of Virginia's natural resources without replenishing them does necessitate being vigilant. Constraining our natural wastefulness in all aspects of our lives is necessary to protect the habitat of our native plants and resources. Our responsibility is to communicate our conservation knowledge and concerns to our neighbors, legislators, and children. Express your constructive ideas to them often. Support conservationists in your government by participation in solving our natural resource problems.

"Wetlands" is the theme for our 1989 Annual Meeting of VNPS, and we look forward to gathering in September - to our speaker, Dr. Stan Shetler, and to the introduction of the Potomac native flora by Kent Minichiello; to field trips, including those to Huntley Meadows, an urban wetland threatened by proposed highway expansion, and other wetlands. Much more is planned by VNPS Potowmack Chapter. There is a wealth of natural native plant beauty to share in our urban setting of Northern Virginia.

Do be with us. Be vigilant in your conservation efforts. Our work continues in ever-changing challenges, and our VNPS chapters need the strength of unity to accomplish our goals.

Nicky Staunton

Coming Events

Environmental Workshops and Candidates' Debate

A debate on environmental issues between Virginia's gubernatorial candidates will be the centerpiece of the Virginia Environmental Assembly, to be held in Richmond on Saturday, October 7. Workshops before and after the debate will give participants the opportunity to learn more about key environmental issues and to develop strategies to address them in the gubernatorial campaign.

The Virginia Environmental Assembly is a project of several local, state, and national organizations working together to enlarge the role of environmental concerns in Virginia policy-making. The program will be held at the Richmond Center, on Fifth Street near the Coliseum, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is a registration fee of \$5. For additional information and registration materials, call Donna Reynolds, (804) 741-8174.

Piedmont Chapter Walk

The Piedmont Chapter plans a fall walk, led by Craig Tufts, on the W & OD trail near Ashburn, Virginia, on Saturday, October 7, at 10:30 a.m. All VNPS members are welcome. For information please call Jeanne Sandstrom, (703) 777-2158.

Protecting Shenandoah National Park

Extensive land development just outside Shenandoah National Park is causing concern about the consequences for the Park. Developing protection strategies for this treasured retreat will be the topic of an illustrated talk by Park Superintendent J.W. Wade at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13.

Sponsored by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, the program will be presented in the Library of Blandy Experimental Farm, on U.S. 50 about 9 miles east of Winchester. Signs for the State Arboretum of Virginia mark the entrance to Blandy.

Growth Management Forum

The Virginia Growth Management Forum, a comprehensive discussion of the intertwined issues of economic development and stewardship of natural resources, will be held September 14-16 in Williamsburg. For additional information, see the last issue of the *bulletin*, or call Ira Kaufman, of Legacy International in Alexandria, at (703) 549-3630.

BULLETIN

A publication of the **Virginia Native Plant Society**
P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003

Nicky Staunton, President
Mary Pockman, Editor *pro tem.*
Barbara Stewart, Artist

Original material contained in the *Bulletin* may be reprinted, provided credit is given to the Virginia Native Plant Society and to the author, if named. Readers are invited to send letters, new items, or original articles for the editor's consideration. They should be typed (double spaced, please) and sent to the Editor at the address above. **The deadline for the next issue is October 9.**

Wetlands and Wetland Conservation

Virginia Native Plant Society

1989 Annual Meeting Weekend

September 22-24, 1989

Sheraton International Conference Center, Reston, Virginia

A welcome table at the Sheraton will have details about field trips and other events, as well as maps and other local information. It will be open from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. Information will be available at the registration table Saturday evening.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:

8:30 p.m.: **Introductory slides - "Plants of the Potomac Valley"**

Expert photographer and botanist Kent Minichiello will show the changing flora and geology along the river from Harpers Ferry to Washington, including several photographs of plants at Scotts Run Nature Preserve, the site of a Saturday field trip.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23:

Until 4 p.m.: **Field trips**

Choose from those listed on page 5, planned by Cris Fleming, VNPS Education Chair, and Mary Pockman. Reservations must be received by September 15.

5:00 p.m.: **Registration**

Members and friends can have a first look at items to be auctioned and at exhibits from VNPS chapters and other organizations.

5:30 p.m.: **Annual meeting and reception**

The business meeting includes reports, election of officers, and time for questions and discussion. The informal reception following its adjournment is an opportunity to enjoy conversation, exhibits, and bidding in the silent auction. Cash bar.

7:30 p.m.: **Banquet and program - "Wetland Habitats: Their Plants and Preservation"**

The entree for this festive dinner is Chicken Estragon; appetizer, salad, dessert, and coffee or tea are included. \$20, including tax and gratuities. Paid reservations must be received by September 19.

After dinner, following President Nicky Staunton's welcome and introductions, VNPS staff artist Barbara Stewart will invite everyone to make "ECONNECTIONS," with a baker's dozen of slides.

Dr. Stanwyn Shetler, the evening's featured speaker, is Curator of Botany and Acting Deputy Director of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, and a founding member of VNPS. He is the author of a widely praised book on the work of wildlife artist Robert Bateman, and has published papers on the Campanulaceae, the Bellflower family, and on Russian botanical history.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:

Morning: **Field trips**

See the schedule on page 5.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: **Quarterly meeting of the VNPS Board of Directors**

All members are welcome to attend.

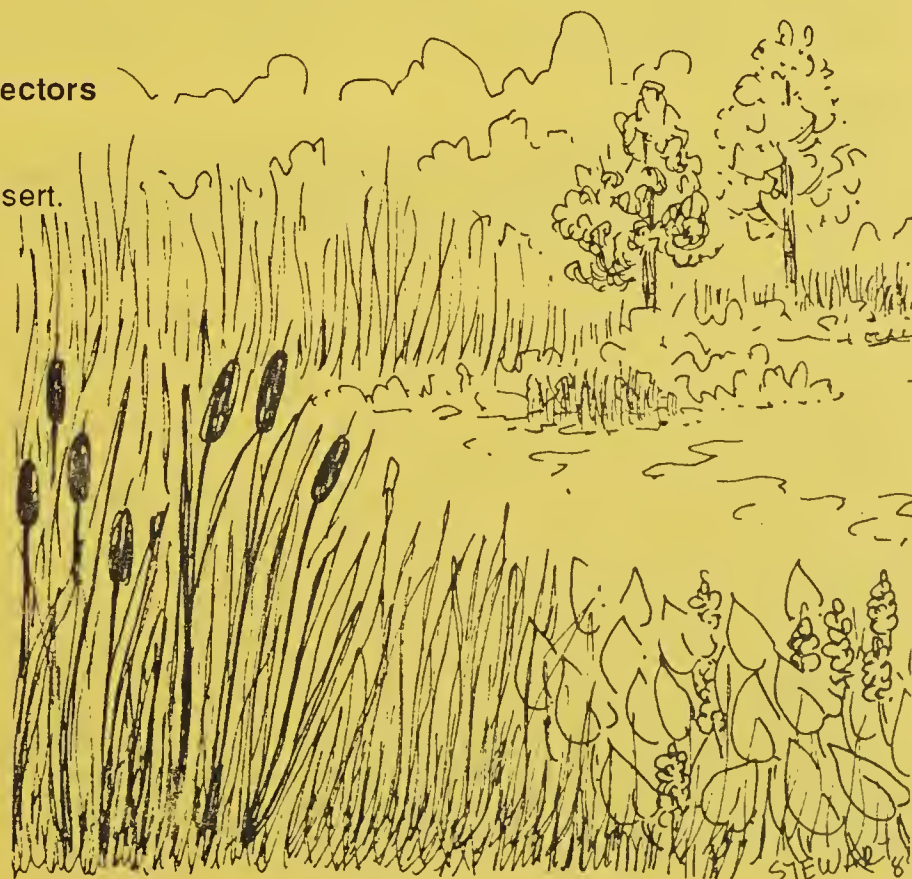
Forms for field trip and dinner reservations are on the *Bulletin* insert.

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Directions to the Sheraton

From I-495, the Capital Beltway: At exit 12, follow signs for Washington Dulles Airport, then for the Washington Dulles Toll Road (Rt. 267). Exit Rt. 267 at Reston Avenue (\$.75 toll), and turn left at the light. Left again at the second traffic light onto Sunrise Valley Drive, to the Sheraton Reston on the left.

From I-66; At Exit 13 take Rt. 28 north, following signs for Dulles Airport. Take the Washington Dulles Toll Road (Rt. 267) east. Exit at Reston Avenue, turning right at the light. At the first traffic light turn left onto Sunrise Valley Drive, to the Sheraton Reston on the left.



Annual Meeting of the Virginia Native Plant Society

September 23, 1989

The annual meeting of the membership of the Virginia Native Plant Society will be held on Saturday, September 23, 1989 at 5:30 p.m., at the Sheraton International Conference Center, Reston, Fairfax County, Virginia, to hear reports and to elect certain officers, directors, and members of the Nominating Committee.

Those persons who have paid dues for the 1988-89 fiscal year may vote on the business conducted. Members in good standing who are not able to attend the meeting may vote in absentia by sending proxies to Dorna Kreitz, Corresponding Secretary, VNPS, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003. Proxies must be received by midnight September 23, 1989. Each family membership is entitled to two votes, other memberships to one vote.

Donna Kreitz, Corresponding Secretary

SLATE OF CANDIDATES

The following slate of candidates is proposed by the 1989 Nominating Committee to replace directors, officers, and members of the Nominating Committee whose terms expire on October 31, 1989, and to fill existing vacancies in other classes.

Board of Directors

Class of 1990

PUBLICATIONS CHAIR - Mary Pockman. Past President (1985-1988) of VNPS and also a past president of Potowmack Chapter. Mary has taken responsibility for editing the *Bulletin* on numerous occasions. A longtime conservationist and wildflower enthusiast, she is also active in other organizations with related concerns.

FUND RAISING (Program Development) - Pat Baldwin. A charter member of the John Clayton Chapter and its innovative Education Chair, Pat's knowledge of native flora is extensive. A pharmacist by profession, he is interested in field botany and photography. (1987 Annual Meeting introduction slide show of the native plants in the John Clayton area of Virginia.) "Wildflower of the Week," by the PBS-TV on the peninsula was instigated by Pat and has run a successful season.

Class of 1992

RECORDING SECRETARY - Elizabeth D. Smith. Liz coordinates group tours and special events for the American Horticultural Society. A member of Potowmack Chapter, she enjoys hiking and gardening and has a life-long interest in ecology and the preservation of natural resources.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - Phoebe White. Currently serving as Membership Chair, Phoebe would begin a new term. She is an active member of Piedmont Chapter, now its Publicity Chair. In the past, she has filled many volunteer positions, chiefly with the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE - Christopher Clampitt. Chris is a plant ecologist with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Before coming to Richmond, he was conservation chair of the Seattle chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society. He holds a master's degree in botany from the University of Washington. Chris will serve as VNPS Publicity Chair.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE - Rebecca White. Nominated to continue as a Director, Becky is active in the Cape Henry Audubon Chapter and in the development and stewardship of the Wyanoke Wildlife Sanctuary, in Norfolk, which devotes resources to native wildlife gardening. She is a member of John Clayton Chapter.

1990 Nominating Committee (One Year Terms)

Gay Bailey. Currently vice president of Jefferson Chapter, Gay is also vice president of the Ivy Creek Foundation. Wildflowers and the outdoors are chief enthusiasms.

Nancy Hugo. Nancy is a well-known writer on gardening and the outdoors, and an active conservationist. She is secretary of the Pocahontas Chapter and is active in the Ashland Garden Club.

Mary Painter. Founder of the Virginia Native Plant Society and its first President. Currently vice president of the Piedmont Chapter, Mary has a native plant nursery near Markham, Virginia.

Jocelyn Alexander, Chair (Piedmont)

Jay D. Andrews (John Clayton) Ann Crocker (Potowmack)

Dawn Gill (Blue Ridge) Nancy Hugo (Pocahontas)

About the Field Trip Leaders...

Allen Belden is an experienced botanist with a primary interest in wetlands plants. He is a member of the Potowmack Chapter.

Judy Bromley, a longtime member of Potowmack Chapter, leads wildflower walks for the Adult Education Department of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Joan Feely, a horticulturist, is Curator of Native Plant Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum, in northeast Washington, and a Potowmack Chapter member.

Cris Fleming is Education Director of the Audubon Naturalist Society, a regional organization in Chevy Chase, MD, and VNPS Education Chair. She is a member of Potowmack Chapter.

Nancy Herwig, Manager of Environmental Education for the Reston Association, known to most Reston residents simply as "the naturalist."

Elaine Haug, a former president of Prince William Wildflower Society, has led many canoe trips along the Potomac shoreline for Virginia and Prince William County Parks.

Marion Blois Lobstein, a founding member of Prince William Wildflower Society, is Associate Professor of Biology at Northern Virginia Community College.

Ambassador **Edwin Martin** is author of *A Beginner's Guide to Wildflowers of the C&O Towpath* and an avid wildflower photographer.

Claudia Thompson-Deahl, Reston's Environmental Manager, is a naturalist whose interests include raptors as well as plants. She is a Prince William member and former VNPS Vice President.

John Trott, the Resident Naturalist at Maderia School, is a well-known teacher/naturalist/photographer.

Add to the Auction

Your contributions are the heart of the Gala Auction that will be part of the program at the VNPS annual meeting September 23. Besides being fun for all, this annual event is an opportunity for both donors and buyers to give a little extra toward conservation of Virginia's native plants. Plants, books, and handcrafts are especially welcome.

To arrange for your donation, get in touch with your chapter auction captain, or send a note to VNPS at P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

Field Trips

To ensure your enjoyment, registration is limited. Reserve by SEPTEMBER 15. Places still available can be reserved at the Sheraton Friday evening or Saturday. For more information, or to change or cancel, call Liz Smith, (703)768-5700 mornings, (703) 768-1697 afternoons and evenings.

Saturday field trips allow return to the Sheraton by 4 p.m. Numbering indicates convenient pairings of half-day trips, but the schedule lets you choose your own combination. Bring your lunch.

Directions will be sent to those who register. To carpool or caravan, meet at the VNPS welcome table. Reston natural areas are within 10 minutes of the hotel; Great Falls, Scotts Run, Widewater, Clark's Crossing, Greenway, and Roosevelt Island are 30-45 minutes, Dyke Marsh, Huntley Meadows, Mason Neck, and Fern Valley, 1 to 1-1/4 hours.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 1a. **GREAT FALLS PARK**, 9-11:30 a.m. Marion Blois Lobstein
National park at the Great Falls of the Potomac. Varied habitats - open rocky palisades, a swamp, an old pond, bottomlands above the falls. Moderate walking. Parking \$3. Maximum 25.
- 1b. **SCOTTS RUN NATURE PRESERVE**, 1-3:30 p.m. Cris Fleming
Fairfax County park (formerly Dranesville District Park), south of Great Falls, known for rich diversity of habitats and plants. Canopy of mature oaks, hickories, beech, tuliptree, sugar maple, even a hemlock grove; varied ferns, clubmosses, shrubs, wildflowers. Some difficult walking. Maximum 20.
- 2a. **DYKE MARSH**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Judy Bromley
Tidal freshwater marsh just south of Alexandria, along the Potomac in the Coastal Plain. Bring binoculars—birding is excellent. Easy walking. Maximum 20.
- 2b. **HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK**, 1-3 p.m. Allen Belden
A large Fairfax County park south of Alexandria, the best example of non-tidal wetlands in the area. Open fields, oak-pine woods, buttonbush swamp, and large freshwater marsh with boardwalk and observation tower. Easy walking. Maximum 15.
3. **MASON NECK WILDLIFE REFUGE**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Elaine Haug
Canoe from the Potomac into Mason Neck's tidal freshwater marsh, this year a fishing area for 7 bald eagles, as well as a stop for migrating waterfowl. Basic canoeing skills required. Maximum 10 canoes. 7 rental canoes available, \$5 for one person, \$8 for two; no reservations accepted after September 15.
4. **U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM: FERN VALLEY**, 10 a.m.-Noon Joan Freely
A 7-acre wildflower and native plant garden, with northern deciduous forest descending to stream and swamp, and adjacent 2-acre meadow. Joan will stay until 12:30 for questions. Easy walking. Maximum 15.
Suggestions for exploring the Arboretum on your own afterward: the New American garden, designed by Oehme Van Sweden with many grasses and native wildflowers; early American and American Indian gardens, both in the Herb Garden. Picnic area.
- 5a. **CLARK'S CROSSING PARK**, 9-11:30 a.m. Cris Fleming
Fairfax County park near Vienna, with both wet and dry meadow habitats under power lines. Many fall-blooming wildflowers. Easy walking. Very limited parking; carpooling essential. Maximum 20.
- 5b. **RESTON NATURAL AREAS**, 1-3:30 p.m. Nancy Herwig and
Claudia Thompson-Deahl
Among Reston's 1000 acres of open spaces, some that are of greatest interest this particular weekend, probably including the beaver pond, Naturescaping Garden, and a meadow. Limited parking; carpool if possible. Maximum 25.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6. **GREENWAY: MADEIRA SCHOOL**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. John Trott
Madeira School's beautiful grounds, in large part natural, on the Potomac near McLean. Diverse habitats include mature woodlands, high palisades, deep ravines and stream valleys, and floodplain. Greenway is not open to the public; this field trip is offered by special permission. Moderate Walking. Maximum 15.
7. **C&O CANAL: WIDEWATER**, 10 a.m.-Noon Ed Martin
A scenic section of the C&O Canal, across the Potomac in Maryland. Level path on bluffs above the river, passing through rich woodlands and open fields. Easy walking. Parking fills early; carpool if possible. Maximum 20.
8. **ROOSEVELT ISLAND**, 10 a.m.-Noon Marion Blois Lobstein
Under the I-66 bridge, a small island in the Potomac with a rich heritage of human and natural history. Habitats include forested wetlands, open fields, a small swamp, and a tidal freshwater marsh. Easy walking. Maximum 25.

VIRGINIA'S RAREST PLANTS

Aeschynomene virginica, Sensitive Joint Vetch

Like *Micranthemum micranthemoides* discussed in the last feature of Virginia's Rarest Plants, *Aeschynomene virginica* is a freshwater intertidal endemic species. Simply defined, these species are restricted to tidal rivers where the salinity is extremely low, often less than 0.5 parts per thousand.

Finding this rare member of the pea family is best attempted by boat along the freshwater sections of our tidal estuaries such as the Chickahominy and the Pamunkey Rivers. Explore the diverse tidal marshes where species diversity approaches 50 species per acre and look for a robust single-stemmed annual towering up to 2 meters in height. *Aeschynomene virginica*'s distinctive pinnately-cut leaves are somewhat sensitive and will fold slightly if touched (thus the name sensitive joint vetch). Most prevalent in high summer, the flowers are numerous, about a

centimeter long, yellow streaked with orange-red. The pea pods bear 6 to 10 segments which turn dark brown when ripe.

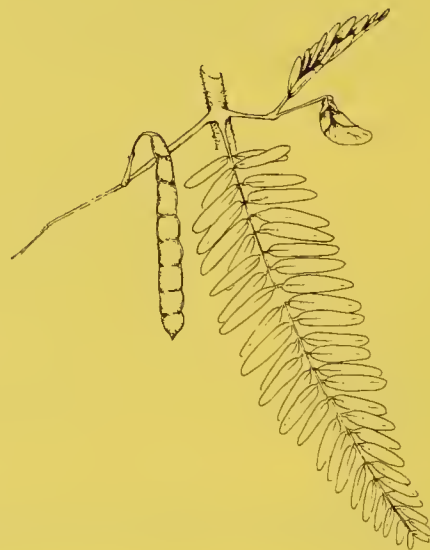
Unfortunately, like many of our freshwater intertidal species, *Aeschynomene*

has become quite rare throughout its range from New Jersey and Pennsylvania south to North Carolina. Outside of Virginia, the known extant populations total fewer than ten, and generally appear to be declining. The good news is that Virginia's remarkably pristine estuaries provide the plant with a global stronghold, a temporary refuge from extinction.

Aeschynomene virginica is currently a candidate for listing as a Federal and State Endangered Species and survey efforts indicate that listing may be appropriate for this species. If so, you may find *Aeschynomene* bears the dubious recognition as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Chris Ludwig

Virginia Natural Heritage Program



Aeschynomene virginica
Meryl Lee Hall

VNPS FISCAL YEAR 1988 INCOME STATEMENT

SUMMARY BALANCE

Income

Investment Income	
Interest Income	\$895
Total Investment Income	\$895
Other Income	
Dues, Membership	\$5,944
Donations	\$450
Sales, Gifts & Books	\$749
Auction Sales	\$1,073
Other Income	\$0
Total other income	\$8,216
Total Income	\$9,110

Expenses

Administration, Society	\$3,133
Insurance	\$0
Membership	\$977
Treasurer	\$162
Publ & Pubs	\$1,667
Fund Raising	\$114
Costs, G&B Sales	\$25
Chapter Dev	\$0
Education	\$18
Conservation	\$562
Botany	\$217
Nominating	\$9
Ad Hoc Committees	\$65
Annual Meeting	\$268
Wildflower Celebration	\$136
Total Expenses	\$7,353
Net Income	\$1,757

Total Assets	\$19,292
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$2,452
Long Term Liabilities	\$1,975
Unclassified Liabilities	\$433
Total Liabilities	\$4,859
Net Worth	
Total Net Worth	\$14,433
Total Liabilities and Net Worth	\$19,292

ROBERT K. HERSCH
3213 N. JOHN MARSHALL DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VA. 22207

Board of Directors
Virginia Native Plant Society

I have examined the accompanying statements of assets, liabilities, and fund balance as of October 31, 1988 and 1987 and the related statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund balance for the years then ended, in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

In my opinion, the above-mentioned financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Virginia Native Plant Society (formerly Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society) at October 31, 1988 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied.

Robert K. Hersch

Robert K. Hersh
Certified Public Accountant
July 10, 1989

FROM NEAR AND FAR

Thinking Ahead

Kuan-Tsu 3rd century B.C., is quoted in the annual report of Cornell Plantations, Ithaca, NY:

If you are thinking a year ahead, sow seeds.

If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant trees.

If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate people.

Plants in Farmers Markets

A VNPS member notes with concern that a vendor in the local city-sponsored farmers market is selling pink lady's slippers. Knowing that the difficulty of propagating *Cypripedium acaule* makes nursery propagated plants virtually unavailable, he assumes these plants have been dug from the wild.

Are collected plants of lady's slippers and other wildflowers commonly sold in Virginia farmers markets, or is this an isolated instance? If you can shed any light on this question, please get in touch with VNPS Conservation Chair Faith Campbell or your chapter conservation chair.

Photography Collectors

The photography collection of VNPS members Kent and Marcia Minichiello, of Washington, D.C., was the subject of a feature article in the *Washington Post* of June 8. The collection, which numbers in the thousands, emphasizes photographs of

the American landscape, reflecting the Minichiellos' strong interest in ecology and conservation.

A distinctive feature of the Minichiellos' approach to collecting is that they look for a significant body of work, not simply for outstanding individual photographs. In their view, the relatedness of a group of photographs - late 19th century images of the American West, for example, or two photographers' perspectives on the Mount St. Helens area after the 1980 eruption—adds a wealth of information about the subject matter to the esthetic or technical interest of the photographs themselves. This "collecting in depth" is exemplified in gifts to Washington's Corcoran Gallery and National Gallery of Art.

Which Ocean To Protect?

Dumping sewage and industrial wastes in the deep ocean may in fact protect the fragile ecosystems of the coastal ocean. So argues oceanographer Charles Osterberg in the *New York Times*, taking issue with the recent federal law that bans ocean dumping after 1991.

Wastes burned or dumped on land are only held in halfway houses, he points out. Eventually they reach the sea, through rivers, rain, erosion, ground-water changes. And what they pollute is the coastal waters—only two percent of the ocean, but more vulnerable and far more important to humankind than the relatively barren depths of the rest. The ban on ocean dumping defeats its own purpose, Oster-

berg maintains, protecting the durable deep ocean at the expense of the planet's other life-support systems.

Update on Wild Collected Bulbs

With bulb-planting time approaching, a reminder that many spring flowering bulbs and corns are wild collected in Turkey, Portugal, and elsewhere (including the U.S.), though labels may indicate that they come from Holland. The Natural Resources Defense Council recently issued up-to-date information on the extent of collection of these and other plants.

Named cultivars don't exist in the wild; it's plants sold under the species name alone that raise questions. Among those that you should currently assume are wild collected, unless they come from dealers that reliably offer only propagated stock, are the following: hardy *Cyclamen*; *Eranthis hyemalis*; *Galanthus* species other than *G. nivalis*; *Leucojum aestivum* and *L. vernum*; miniature *Narcissus*, including *N. triandrus*, *N. asturiensis*, *N. cyclamineus*, and *N. bulbocodium conspicuus*; *Sternbergia*; North American species of *Cypripedium*, *Erythronium*, *Fritillaria*, and *Trillium*; and *Tulipa praecox*.

For more information, send a business-size SASE to NRDC, 1350 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

For the Dog Days

If your favorite summer reading is mystery and suspense, some books of special appeal to those who enjoy the outdoors:

The Turquoise Dragon, by naturalist David Rains Wallace, revolves around an extremely rare salamander and the greed and protectiveness it arouses in different people. The setting, the wilderness of northern California's Klamath Mountains, is vividly realized - no surprise to readers of *The Klamath Knot*, Wallace's much-acclaimed book on the natural history of the Klamaths.

An endangered New Zealand wildflower propels the plot of John Sherwood's *A Botanist at Bay*. The detective, Celia Grant, is a middle-aged English nurserywoman; this and other books in which she appears are given a distinctive touch by Sherwood's horticultural and botanical details.

Linda McMahan to Oregon

Best wishes from the VNPS go with member and former First Vice President Linda McMahan, who in September will become executive director of The Berry Botanic Garden, Portland, Oregon. Linda left Virginia in the fall of 1985 to join the staff of the Center for Plant Conservation, where she is currently director of botanic garden programs.

Yes, I want to renew my membership in VNPS!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 or over) \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (groups) \$25* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate sponsor \$125* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100 | *Please designate one person as delegate:
_____ | |

Please enroll me as A member at large A member of _____ Chapter

I wish to make an additional contribution to VNPS _____ Chapter

in the amount of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____

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

Check here if you do not wish to be listed in a chapter directory.

Make check payable to VNPS and mail to:

VNPS Membership Chair, Route 1, Box 381, Delaplane, VA 22025

CHAPTER NEWS

Cooperating To Conserve

The **Blue Ridge Wildflower Society** is working with other organizations on several conservation projects. With National Park Service staff, members have been helping to protect and preserve a bog with sundew, and, in West Virginia, a habitat for showy lady's slippers. At Booker T. Washington National Monument, the chapter has completed a plant survey.

Blue Ridge members also finished a plant survey recently for the Virginia Nature Conservancy at Bottom Creek Gorge, in Montgomery County, where the Conservancy has begun to acquire land for a proposed 700-acre preserve. Bottom Creek, cascading through magnificent scenery, provides the cool, rocky, silt-free habitat required by the orangefin madtom, a fish that is a candidate for federal listing as endangered. Among the gems of the Gorge's almost undisturbed ecosystem is a virgin stand of hemlocks.

Another cooperative program of the BRWS was an overnight field trip, co-sponsored with the Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, to Croatan National Forest, in North Carolina. Participants found a great variety of plants indigenous to coastal habitats, including sundew, fly-trap, several pitcher plants, and orchids.

County Fair Time

"Gardens for Butterflies and Moths" was the focus of the exhibit the **Prince William Wildflower Society** prepared for the annual Prince William County Fair, held this year August 11-19. In addition to an attractive display, chapter volunteers produced two handouts, one for adults and one for children. Emphasis was on the native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs that provide food for adults and for larvae, and on creating a welcoming environment for them.

Virginia Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 844
Annandale, VA 22003



BE SURE TO RENEW BY
THE DATE ON THE LABEL

Living Museum: A New Combination

In May of 1987, a new and unique museum opened its doors in Newport News. This facility, named the Virginia Living Museum, is a combination natural history museum, native zoological park and botanical garden. The majority of the indoor and outdoor exhibits focus on the flora and fauna of Virginia's Coastal Plain.

On the Museum's 25 acres, there are 4-1/2 acres of exhibit that are planted with over 6,000 trees, shrubs, and perennials representative of 96 families and 300 species. The majority of this collection is located in the oak-hickory woods that dominate most of the outdoor exhibits area. Prior to the Museum's opening, this woodland had suffered many years of unrestricted foot traffic. Consequently, there was little original understory left in existence.

Six months before the Museum opened, the horticulture staff began re-establishing an understory in the woodland area. All of it was planted in a naturalistic landscape that simulates natural plant communities found in this region. Also during this time a wildflower meadow was being planted, plant by plant, in a large turf area in front of the Museum.

After the Museum opened, the horticultural staff continued to add to the collection and develop new plant communities. The Museum's large two-story aviary, really the beginning of the outdoor landscape, contains a representation of an Evergreen Maritime Forest understory. This same plant association was also planted outside the aviary to give the appearance of a continuous unbroken plant community.

As the outdoor trail leaves the aviary, it meanders by the Museum's lake shore until it reaches the mountain laurel thicket that is planted between the beaver and otter exhibits. This garden flows down a slope towards the trail and contains a number of representatives of the family Ericaceae.

On the slopes surrounding and above the otter exhibit is a woodland wildflower garden, which consists of hundreds of spring and fall blooming perennials. This garden also contains a large number of fern species. Across the trail

from the wildflower garden, the slope falls away to a broad stream bed which already contains the beginnings of a bog community and will eventually be home for the carnivorous plant collection.

The trail continues into the uplands region past a number of wild azalea and mountain laurel plantings. This area also contains a variety of small trees and shrubs that were collected from an industrial park that is less than a mile from the Museum. After the uplands, the trail moves into an open region which contains the deer pasture and wildflower meadow. The meadow is being expanded by five-fold this summer and will be completed by September.

The Museum already is planning for additional gardens throughout the grounds, which will be started as funding becomes available. Some of these include a Pine Barrens habitat similar to the one south of the Museum in Zuni, Virginia. This garden will skirt the edges of the wildflower meadow and flow into and through the deer pasture. There will also be a backyard wildlife habitat garden, to give visitors ideas for the role and use of natives in attracting wildlife. Adjacent to the aviary will be a nectar seekers garden, which will provide food for both caterpillars and butterflies.

A variety of organizations have assisted with unique landscape by providing funding for the meadow garden and a labeling system for plants and the gardens. There is also a very dedicated volunteer staff that has done much of the backbreaking work that is always involved in planting large trees and shrubs. Just this spring the volunteers propagated over 5,000 wildflowers for this year's highly successful wildflower sale.

David West

David West is Curator of Horticulture at the Virginia Living Museum and a member of John Clayton Chapter. Located at 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., west of I-64 (Exit 62A), it is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday through Labor Day; after that it closes at 5 p.m. It is open 7-9 p.m. Thursday all year.

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Winter 1989



Bulletin

Vol. 8, No. 4

A publication of the VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Virginia Wildflower of 1990—Spring Beauty

One of the loveliest spring wildflowers, *Claytonia virginica*, spring beauty, has been chosen Virginia Wildflower of 1990. Selected by a VNPS committee headed by Botany Chair Dorothy Bliss, it is the second species to receive special recognition as Virginia Wildflower of the Year.

The genus *Claytonia* honors John Clayton, one of Virginia's earliest botanists (1693-1773), who lived at Soles, in Mathews County, and contributed plant specimens to Gronovius for his *Flora Virginica* (1739).

In early spring masses of spring beauty's star-like pink flowers carpet many moist, rich woodlands. The flowers, white to rose with deeper red veins, are produced in loose racemes above a pair of opposite, narrow, fleshy leaves midway up the stem. The above-ground plants disappear soon after flowering and remain over winter as tubers deep in the ground.

Spring beauty occurs in the eastern half of the U.S. and adjacent Canada and as far west as Montana and Texas. It is known from nearly all counties in Virginia except a few in the southwestern tip and on the Delmarva Peninsula. Another species, broad-leaved spring beauty, *C. caroliniana*, with much wider oval leaves is found in eighteen counties in the southwestern portion of the state. The genus *Claytonia* is classified in the Portulacaceae or Purslane family; the only other members of this family recorded in Virginia are three species of *Portulaca* and *Talinum teretifolium*, fame flower.

As we encounter these two species of *Claytonia* in woods and clearings and learn more about them, several interesting puzzles are apparent. Are these two species distinct or do they overlap in their

VNPS Registry Program Introduced

Preserving outstanding examples of native plants and their habitats is an important goal of the VNPS. At its September meeting the society's Board of Directors launched the Virginia Native Plant Society Registry, a new program that can be a strong tool to accomplish this goal. It will involve voluntary protection by landowners, whether public or private, of outstanding native plant sites identified on their land.

All too often we learn of a special place with an uncertain future, such as a superb wetland in a field or a vulnerable population of regionally rare wildflowers in a park woodland. Will the field be drained or trampled by cattle? Will ORV's destroy the woodland site? In many instances, well-intentioned landowners are simply unaware of the native plants or their value, and are more than glad to be alerted. The Virginia Nature Conservancy, which has used registry as a protection tool for years,

confirms that many landowners welcome being told their land is special and willingly take responsibility for protection if the site is given registry status.

Under the guidelines adopted for the VNPS program, little is asked of the land owner beyond a voluntary pledge to protect the site as well as possible. No rights are given up and no agreement is signed. In return for granting VNPS registry to the site, the landowner receives a Society commendation and a plaque, and agrees to whatever visits by VNPS representatives seem appropriate to both sides.

Criteria for sites that are eligible for registry are deliberately broad, leaving the way open for the Society to recognize special value in many kinds of habitats and for various reasons. The plants protected must be native to Virginia and as a general rule habitats should be uncultivated, although significant wildflower plantings could be registered.

Proposals for sites to be registered will originate with chapters. However, only a five-member VNPS Registry Committee, headed by the state Botany Chair, will have the authority to approve them. The VNPS Registry Committee will include directors of the Virginia Nature Conservancy and the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Both groups have a vital interest in the identification and protection of significant plant habitats and have helped to formulate guidelines for the VNPS program. Information exchange with them as we move ahead will avoid duplication and overlap, and should significantly help to further our common goals.

VNPS members who know of sites that might be candidates for registry may



characteristics? Do they hybridize? Why or how have they become separated geographically? Perhaps we can locate new populations in counties where at present neither species is known to occur. These challenges will give added zest to our spring walks and field trips.

Dorothy Bliss

continued on page 3

From the President

Concluding the VNPS year 1988-89, we are at a point of looking forward to this next year, and especially to beginning our new registry program. Before we think about what we will be doing, let's consider where we have been in '88-'89.

The activities that occurred came about because of members throughout the state supporting the program of VNPS. Chapters, boards, and committees all contributed their part. Among the highlights: introduction of a new VNPS logo; an enthusiastically-received brochure on our first Wildflower of the Year, Virginia bluebells; the Winter Workshop on leading field trips; initiation of the VNPS Horticulture Advisory Council; restyling and sharpening of the *Bulletin*, revision of the Administrative Handbook; and as the year drew to a close, the birth of the VNPS Registry, complementing The Nature Conservancy's program.

Looking ahead, the registry program may have a quick beginning, with at least one chapter already considering a specific property for registration. The first steps are being taken toward development of a VNPS chapter in the south Hampton Roads area, which includes Norfolk and Virginia Beach. You will have opportunities to learn at the 1990 Winter Workshop, now being planned. Work is beginning on springtime events—Earth Day 1990 (April 22) and Virginia Wildflower Celebration '90 in April and May—and on promotion of the Virginia Wildflower of 1990, *Claytonia virginica*. VNPS will be looking to you for your support both in chapters and with statewide activities.

There will be more for you to do. To preserve Virginia's native plants, there will be meetings at which your presence would make a difference. Letters will need to be written when you would rather enjoy the flowers. Calls to your elected representatives will be necessary. You will be asked again and again — and again — to do these things. When you are tempted to "let someone with more free

time do this," focus your mind's eye on the Virginia fringe tree, wild clematis vines, walking fern, viburnum, bluebells, cardinal flowers or your favorite native plants. Be their voice, their advocate. All of them are worthy of your efforts.

VNPS was founded on sound facts, cooperation, good spirit and tenacity. This is not a one effort fix-it; rather, an ever changing, ongoing new way of life for most of us. And when you might, just might feel discouraged that change is slow, remember that VDACS listed twelve plants this year as endangered. Be encouraged!

Nicky Staunton

Thank you all!

Annual meetings don't just "happen." The successful VNPS Annual Meeting 1989 the weekend of September 22-24 was due to the contributions, backstage as well as front and center, of many loyal VNPS folk.

We owe great thanks to members of our host chapter, Potomack, for their gracious welcome and thoughtful planning of field trips, speakers, and local arrangements, especially to the people who led these efforts—Anne Crocker, Cris Fleming, Trish Hendershot, Dorna Kreitz, Mary Pockman, Liz Smith, and Barbara Stewart.

The Friday evening introduction to the area was a delight, as Kent Minichiello shared his knowledge of the plants of the Potomac Valley, setting the stage for our Saturday and Sunday field trips. The field trips, including several to the area's varied wetlands, were enjoyed by many (even one copperhead); only one walk had to be canceled because of high water from Hurricane Hugo's rains. Thank you to ten skillful field trip leaders!

For the festivities that opened Saturday evening, our thanks to all those who staffed the welcome and registration tables; prepared and brought the excellent exhibits; solicited and contributed items for the auction—and bought them, making the auction a successful VNPS fund raiser; and to those who helped set up, ran last-minute errands, and otherwise made the evening go smoothly. Special recognition goes to Margaret Pridgen, whose gift of nametags with our new logo added spice from the start; Cris Fleming, who prepared the new slide program on habitats that engrossed many; and Mary Painter, who informally guided the auction and organized and produced the catalog.

To cap the evening, we were indeed fortunate in having Dr. Stan Shetler share his knowledge and convictions about wetland habitats and their plants. His presentation followed the challenging warm-up of Barbara Stewart's "EConnections." And enjoying merry companions at a delicious meal gave the evening special pleasure.

Thank you, one and all!

N.S.

The Bulletin

is published four times a year by the
Virginia Native Plant Society
 P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003

Nicky Staunton, President
 Mary Pockman, Editor *pro tem.*
 Barbara Stewart, Artist

Original material contained in the *Bulletin* may be reprinted, provided credit is given to the Virginia Native Plant Society and to the author, if named. Readers are invited to send letters, new items, or original articles for the editor's consideration. They should be typed (double spaced, please) and sent to the Editor at the address above. **The deadline for the next issue is February 10.**

Wetland Protection in Virginia

Following the annual meeting, a number of members asked for more information about what Virginia is doing to protect its wetlands. Ann Regn provided information for the following summary.

Virginia has 1 million acres of tidal and nontidal wetlands, nearly half of all the wetlands in the mid-Atlantic region.

Wetlands store floodwaters, remove sediments, pollutants, and nutrients from water, and serve as spawning and nursery grounds for fish and wildlife, not to mention their value for recreation, hunting, fishing, education, and aesthetics. Nontidal wetlands also perform a valuable function in recharging ground water aquifers.

So important are wetlands to the health of the Chesapeake Bay that a specific policy regarding them is part of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, adopted in 1987 by the governors of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, the EPA, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. That policy established an immediate goal of no net loss, with a long term goal of a net resource gain.

With these goals as a starting point, a Chesapeake Bay wetlands strategy is now being developed for Virginia. Among the matters it will cover are measures to mitigate loss of wetlands, including creation of artificial wetlands, and the role and authority of the state Water Control Board. There will be an opportunity for public comment on this important plan when the draft is released in January, in time for the 1990 General Assembly. (For more information, call 800 662-CRIS.)

Nontidal wetlands are presently of greater concern than tidal wetlands, the other basic wetland type. Coastal wetlands—largely tidal salt and freshwater marshes and mud flats, which are periodically flooded by salt or brackish water—are protected by the state's Wetlands Act, which requires a permit to destroy or alter tidal wetlands. Since its enactment in 1972, the destruction of tidal marshes in

Virginia has slowed from 400 acres per year to about 20 acres per year.

Nontidal wetlands have limited protection under the federal Clean Water Act, which for certain activities requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and certification from the state Water Control Board. They have little state regulatory protection, however, though they comprise about 70 percent of Virginia's wetlands. Less understood than tidal marshes, nontidal wetlands are not subject to tides, contain poorly drained soils that are soggy at least part of the year, flood seasonally, and are dominated by "wetland" vegetation.

Last winter, a bill to protect nontidal wetlands was introduced in the General Assembly but failed under opposition from developers, farmers, and builders. Instead, the Water Control Board was directed to exercise the authority it has under the federal Clean Water Act, with emphasis on wetland impacts.

At the time of this compromise the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (CBLAB) was drafting land-use controls for Tidewater localities. It was hoped that strong protection for nontidal wetlands, in the form of vegetative buffers, would be included. CBLAB's new regulations, however, cover only about half of the state's nontidal wetlands, those that are connected to tidal wetlands by permanent creeks. (Local governments will have the option of protecting others.)

CBLAB referred the issue of mitigating loss of wetlands to a panel appointed by the state legislature, the Nontidal Wetlands Roundtable; it is this group's recommendations that will come to the General Assembly next session. Its members include legislators and representatives of the administration and of interest groups, including developers, builders, and environmentalists. The Institute for Environmental Negotiation is facilitating the Roundtable's discussions.

For those who would like to learn more about wetlands and wetland conservation, the theme of the 1989 VNPS annual meeting, the following are among the many resources available. A *Citizen's Guide to Protecting Wetlands* and a *Wetlands Watch Kit* may be borrowed from VNPS. Write to Education Chair Cris Fleming, VNPS, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

You can order your own copy of the *Citizen's Guide*, a 64-page manual, from the National Wildlife Federation,

1400 16th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036-2266; enclose a check for \$10.25 payable to National Wildlife Federation. The *Wetlands Watch Kit* is available from the Izaak Walton League, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, Level B, Arlington, VA 22209.

Another publication, *America's Wetlands*, is available from the Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street S.W., Washington, DC 20460. Protection of nontidal wetlands is a high priority for the Conservation Council of Virginia, and its newsletter, sent to all members, carries

Wetland Orchid Listed as Threatened

The eastern prairie fringed orchid, *Platanthera leucophaea*, which has one known population in Virginia, has been listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. As a result of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service action, this rare orchid will now receive the same protection as federally Endangered species. It will also become a candidate for listing in Virginia.

Platanthera leucophaea is found on calcareous wetlands, including portions of fens, sedge meadows, marshes, and bogs. Once occurring in 21 states, and as far west as Oklahoma, this species is now known in just 52 populations in 7 states, primarily in the Northeast. Its decline is attributed to the destruction of eastern grasslands.

The single Virginia population, on a wet meadow in the Shenandoah Valley, marks the southern limit of the plant's current range. It is subject to light grazing, and has not been seen for several years.

VNPS Registry

Continued from page 1

contact a member of their chapter Board of Directors to ascertain whether the chapter has a Registrar for the program. Bear in mind that VNPS Registry is new and your chapter may not yet be organized to move forward. Only those VNPS Chapters electing to include Registry in their program will participate. It is voluntary for them.

The VNPS Board hopes its registry program will give a direct conservation capability to our growing network of volunteers across the state who are out there where the plants are, and are in a position to identify valuable areas.

Jocelyn Alexander

A special committee appointed by the VNPS Board developed the concept of the Virginia Native Plant Society Registry and drafted the guidelines approved by the board. Its members were Jocelyn Alexander, Dorothy Bliss, Larry Morse, and Ann Regn. In the guidelines the committee incorporated ideas and suggestions from George Fenwick, Director of the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and Michael Lipford, Coordinator of the Virginia Natural Heritage Program.

articles on various facets of wetland conservation as they apply in this state. For more information, see "Coming Events" in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

VIRGINIA'S RAREST PLANTS

Trifolium virginicum, Kate's Mountain Clover

Trifolium virginicum is the only one of our four native clovers which can still be found over a large range in Virginia. Why then is it rare? The answer lies in the habitat preference of the species, not in its seemingly wide distribution. Like shale barren rock-cress, featured in the spring 1988 VNPS *Bulletin*, Kate's mountain clover is restricted to the unique and limited natural community called a "shale barren."

A shale barren forms when a south-facing hillside of easily exfoliating shale is undercut by a stream. The natural community, sun-baked and with little soil due to erosion, forms a harsh, desert-like environment with sparse or absent woody vegetation, well-spaced herbs, and large patches of bare shale. This unique natural community is found only in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, and as many as twenty species, the Kate's mountain clover among them, are restricted to this habitat type. The term for species restricted to the shale barren is "shale barren

endemic." *Trifolium virginicum* is also found, though rarely, on sandstone and limestone barrens, and so can not be considered strictly endemic.



Trifolium virginicum
Ali Wiebolt

Like many shale barren specialties, Kate's mountain clover is a spring-blooming perennial. The white flower heads of this prostrate plant are larger and the leaflets

are more elongate than in most clovers. *Trifolium* species are members of the Pea family, known as the *Fabaceae* or by an older name, the *Leguminosae*.

Conservation of the Kate's mountain clover is progressing on many fronts. On the federal level, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering this species for listing as federally endangered. The Virginia Endangered Species Symposium, held in spring 1989 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, acknowledged the vulnerability of this rare species in Virginia and recommended listing it as Threatened in the Commonwealth.

The species is also being actively protected on the Virginia landscape through a partnership of The Nature Conservancy and the Virginia Department of Conservation that is acquiring some of Virginia's finest shale barrens, along with other important natural areas. Through regulatory efforts and land protection, Virginians may enjoy the beauty of *Trifolium virginicum* and other shale barren plants for years to come.

Chris Ludwig
Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Coming Events

Earth Day 1990

April 22, 1990, the twentieth anniversary of the original Earth Day, is the date of Earth Day 1990. Urging recommitment to a sustainable global environment, a coalition of environmental groups is planning multiple observances, including specific proposals at next year's international economic summit, television programming, and a variety of local events, on Earth Day 1990 and throughout April.

In addition to greatly increasing environmental awareness, Earth Day 1970 led to landmark political changes, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency. The sponsors of Earth Day 1990 hope to launch "a decade of cooperation on behalf of the environment," a movement that will generate comparable progress worldwide. They are stressing individual action as well as changes in public policy.

For more information about plans for Earth Day 1990 or about particular environmental questions, or to become involved in next year's effort, write to Earth Day 1990, P.O. Box AA, Stanford, CA 94305.

CCVA Meets in Richmond

The Conservation Council of Virginia will hold its first meeting of 1990 on January 27 in Richmond. The Council, a statewide

citizens' environmental coalition, welcomes both individuals and organizations to membership. (VNPS is a voting member.) In regular meetings and through its newsletter, the *CCVA Report*, the Council addresses a variety of broad conservation issues, such as National Forest management, recycling, and protection of nontidal wetlands.

For details about the January meeting or for membership information, write to CCVA, P.O. Box 106, Richmond, VA 23201. Individual membership dues are \$15 a year.

Smokies Natural History Foray

A field trip sponsored by the Audubon Alliance will explore the wildflowers and natural history of the Great Smoky Mountains next April 18-23. From a base in Gatlinburg, the group will visit a different park area each day, with time for photography, quiet walks, serious study, or simple relaxation. Participants can expect to see dozens of species of flowering plants, as well as ferns and characteristic wildlife, as they develop a broad understanding of this magnificent area.

Cris Fleming, Education Director for the Audubon Naturalist Society (and VNPS Education Chair), will lead this foray. A second leader will be added if group size

warrants. Tentative cost, double occupancy from Knoxville, is \$550 for members of Audubon Alliance societies, \$570 for non-members.

For details: Audubon Naturalist Society, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; 301 652-5946.

Ecological Restoration Conference

Restoration as it applies to key environmental issues, including global climate change and the recovery of endangered species, will be the theme of several special sessions at the 1990 annual conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration. Restorationists, decision makers, and the general public are invited to attend the conference, to be held in Chicago, April 29-May 3, at the Sheraton International Hotel, O'Hare.

Topics of other special sessions include prairie restoration, restoration philosophy, and standards for monitoring restoration projects. Contributed papers and posters, workshops, and field trips to restoration projects round out the program.

To receive detailed information about this conference, write to the Society for Ecological Restoration, The University of Wisconsin Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711.

A Challenge to the Misleading Use of 'Nursery Grown'

As spring plant catalogues begin to arrive, be alert for those that say the native plants offered are "nursery grown."

Use of this term appears to be increasing, perhaps in response to widely-expressed concern about wild collection. Whatever implications it may carry, however, "nursery grown" is not the equivalent of "nursery propagated."

"Nursery grown" means simply that plants have spent some part of their lives—as little as a few weeks—in a nursery bed or container. Plants propagated in a nursery from seed or cuttings or through tissue culture are nursery grown. But so are plants that have been dug from the wild and held in a nursery until they can be sold. For those who want to avoid buying wild collected plants, the term "nursery grown" is irrelevant.

Moreover, it can be misleading, even deceptive, when it is applied to plants that cannot be commercially propagated. At least two dealers are using "nursery grown," and even adding "not collected from the wild," in their listings of pink lady's slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*, and large-flowered trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*. So far as experts in the field have been able to determine, no nursery is propagating these species in commercial quantities.

In response to misleading usage, the Eastern Native Plant Alliance, in which VNPS participates, is urging that concerned individuals ask nurseries to apply the terms "nursery grown" and "not wild collected" only to plants that are propagated and subsequently grown to saleable size in the nursery. Please join in this effort!

Wild collection of native plants for commercial sale is a complicated issue. At the local level, unscrupulous and damaging collection of native plants is known to occur, but the effect of commercial collection over the entire range of common species has yet to be established. Until questions about the true impact of wild collection for the commercial trade are resolved, ENPA, VNPS, and other conservation organizations recommend that gardeners buy only nursery propagated plants. Following this recommendation requires that catalogue descriptions be accurate.

Cypripedium acaule is extremely difficult to propagate (as are many other native orchids). At a recent conference of orchid propagators from the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom, the consensus was that commercial propagation of this species is not yet possible. All plants offered for sale must be assumed to come from the wild.

Propagation of large-flowered and other trilliums is possible, but it is so slow and inefficient that commercial production has not been found feasible. *Trillium grandiflorum* takes 5 to 7 years to reach flowering size from seed. It can be propagated by division, but the yield is small, usually only one new division a year from each stock plant, and the divisions still need several years to reach saleable size. Tissue culture propagation is still experimental.

To offer this species in commercial quantities, a nursery would have to maintain thousands of permanent stock plants, at substantial cost; the price to the consumer would be correspondingly high. Given the economics of production, plants of *T. grandiflorum* should also be assumed to be wild collected.

What You Can Do

Write to any nursery that offers *Cypripedium acaule* or *Trillium grandiflorum* as "nursery grown" or "not wild collected." Tell them why you are concerned, and ask that they apply these terms only to plants that are nursery propagated.

Concentrate on requesting unambiguous, truthful labeling; put aside the issue of wild collection in itself. (Buyers should be able to count on proper labeling of all species, but the argument that the present terms are misleading is most strongly supported for these two.)

Send a copy of your letter to the Mailorder Association of Nurseries, 8683 Doves Fly Way, Laurel, MD 20707; direct it to the attention of Ms. Camille G. Chiolini,



Cypripedium acaule

Executive Director. In its efforts to ensure ethical practices by members, the association needs the support of customers.

A copy to VNPS would be helpful; it should be sent to Mary Pockman, 7301 Hooking Road, McLean, VA 22101.

In writing a letter, remember these tips:

Be brief and to the point. Keep to a single subject.

Make your letter individual, expressing your views in your own words.

Be constructive and courteous, not derogatory or demanding.

Ask for a response (and be sure to include a return address). Don't hesitate to write again if the response is equivocal.

New ENPA Projects

Small working groups from the Eastern Native Plant Alliance are undertaking several projects as a result of ENPA's 1989 meeting. Established two years ago, ENPA is a network of botanic gardens and arboreta, native plant societies, nurseries, and other organizations that in diverse ways promote and demonstrate native plant conservation.

In addition to a campaign to end misleading use of the term "nursery grown," described elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, projects planned for 1990 include a brochure on conservation gardening and several programs to increase awareness of native plant conservation among professional organizations.

Longer term projects are also under way. Recognizing the lack of systematic information on wild collection, particularly as it affects relatively common species, one group is setting out to collect baseline data on selected populations. Other groups are exploring ways to recognize and commend sound conservation practices by nurseries, and to offer nurseries alternatives to wild collection. Still another group is developing guidelines for land-use practice by real estate developers. The working groups emerged from a forum on priorities common to ENPA participants. Among the broad issues discussed were plant protection, wild collection, ecologically responsible landscape restoration, and the genetic consequences of propagation, selection, and naturalization.

People from some thirty organizations in the U.S. and Canada took part in the meeting, held in July in Fletcher, NC. President Nicky Staunton and Mary Pockman represented the VNPS.

September Morn

I will be honest with you—I wasn't looking forward to a trip from quiet Williamsburg, surrounded by woods and birds, to hectic, crowded Northern Virginia for our annual meeting. I signed up for what looked like interesting field trips, but wondered where we would find any native plant habitats in such a populous area. What a wonderful surprise was waiting!

Our Sunday morning walk with John Trott at Madeira School was the highlight of botanizing and conversation for the season. Just a few minutes from cookie cutter buildings and noisy streets, where names like Temporary Road and Ad Hoc Road speak of rapid development, we stepped into 400 acres of woodland, with a breathtaking view of the Potomac.

"Ecologically, this is the most valuable piece of land in Northern Virginia." We all agreed with John's assessment as we admired the vista from the vantage point of the school's activity building. As we descended a 300 foot ravine leading to Blackwater Pond, John pointed out interesting plants and related his experiences with students in the field. His work as naturalist has given him the opportunity to influence these young women for a lifetime appreciation of the natural environment. One of his former students, Toby Chieffo, recently expressed her feelings: "Before I took these courses I was frightened in the woods. Now I'm not afraid anymore."

Yes, John dropped some names, and I felt as though those men and women were silently accompanying us on this sparkling September morning—Charles Darwin and his wife Emma Wedgwood, Alexander Wilson, John Audubon, John Burroughs, and Miss Lucy Madeira. He also spoke of nameless people—the Indians who took shelter in ancient sycamores, up to 300 feet in circumference, and the botanists who collected plants in the new world, seeking uses for these rich new resources. Juice from slippery elm was a sore throat remedy, and its leaves a

mild abrasive for reddening the cheeks of young girls. I could almost see Indian maidens and Madeira girls side by side, experimenting with nature's cosmetics.

John and I shared a love of plant names: Saxifrage—rock cracker, Dandelion—dent de leon, or its folk medicine name—pis-en-lit. There was lots of "Gee Whiz" information. "Did you know poke-weed is the largest North American herbaceous plant? You can freeze the ripe fruit for your winter bird feeder."

And the ferns: maidenhair, grape, Christmas, marginal shield, resurrection, New York (tapering at both ends like a New Yorker burning the candle at both ends), broad beech (with the bottom fronds sticking out like feet on the beach). John pointed to drooping ferns along the stream's edge which had sheltered the nest of a waterthrush. Through the murmuring conversation of our VNPS explorers, we also heard the birds singing from beech, sycamore, maple, and cypress trees.

Michelle Milbank, whom John had taught in junior high, reminded me of a bubbling wren as she shared her love of botany with us. She told John, "You were the only teacher who ever taught me winter keys." He instructed us in distinguishing red oak from black, "Look at the end buds—red oak is shiny, black is velvety." Of course—*Quercus velutina*, now the name has meaning. Michelle, whose license plate reads BOTNST, is now a graduate student in Botany at JMU, carefully compiling her own collection of woody plants.

We noted the relationship between trees and herbaceous plants, with giant beech tree roots clutching the steep banks of the creek like fingers holding the soil. We admired both spotted and pale touch-me-not, wild hydrangea, a beech tree with carved dates stretching back to 1907. John wove a continuous thread of conservation, perfectly exemplified by his own

carefully preserved 1780 log house of Virginia chestnut. Nestled in the woods near the campus, it is a perfect habitat for John and his wife, Lee. Like Emma Darwin, she shares her husband's passion for natural history, and joined us on this walk.

John also had some fine compliments for our organization. "VNPS has done more in 10 years than any other comparable organization." The rescue work of the Potowmack Chapter, spearheaded by Ed Ballard and Mary Painter, convinced him personally of the worth of our volunteer efforts. He spoke of our outstanding members affecting legislation, education and preservation, and also of the wonderful commitment of our leadership.

We left Madeira inspired by its unspoiled beauty, and proud of the VNPS, both its past and its future goals. Thank you, Cris Fleming, for arranging this splendid morning, and thank you, John Trott, for sharing your woods, memories, and dreams with us.

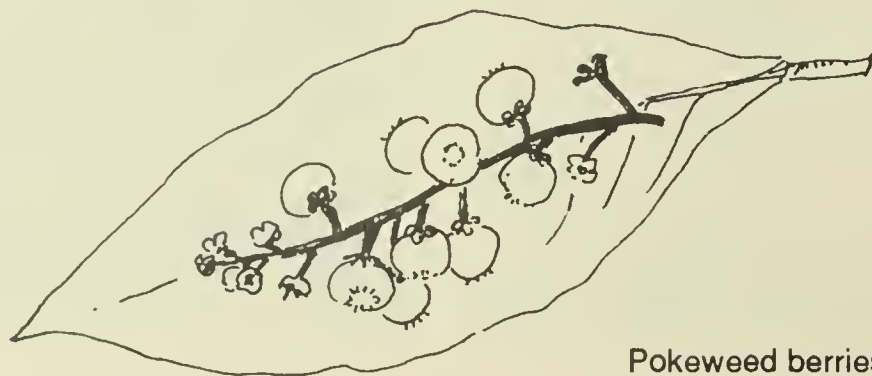
Cynthia Long
John Clayton Chapter

Arboretum Update

In the spring issue of the *Bulletin*, the State Arboretum of Virginia asked for help in locating sites for collecting seed or cuttings from 28 native woody plant species. The request was part of a propagation program to enhance the native plant collections at the Arboretum, located east of Winchester.

Several VNPS members responded with helpful information and suggestions. Arboretum Curator Chris Sacchi also received assistance from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources, the Division of State Parks, and the Natural Heritage Program.

Three species on the original list, Dr. Sacchi learned, are locally rare. Those species, *Paxistima canbyi*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, and *Osmanthus americanus*, will not be collected. Collection of the others, which are common at least regionally, will continue.



Pokeweed berries



FROM NEAR AND FAR

How to say it

William T. Stearn, in his scholarly treatise *Botanical Latin*, offers reassurance to those who tend to mutter the Latin names of plants, unsure which vowel sound is right or where the accent falls. How these scientific names are pronounced, he says, "really matters little provided they sound pleasant and are understood by all concerned."

Propagation opportunity

The 1990 Seed List of the New England Wild Flower Society offers seeds or spores of more than 150 varieties of wildflowers and ferns, suited to a variety of habitats. Many are difficult to obtain from commercial sources.

For a copy of the seed list, send \$1.00 and a self-addressed, \$.45 stamped envelope (business size) to Seeds, New England Wild Flower Society, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701. Requests for the list must be received by March 1, and the deadline for orders is March 15. Requests are filled in the order received.

Brown black locusts

Late-summer browning of black locust trees, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, is a familiar sight, but this year the damage was unusually severe. *Arbor Vitae*, the newsletter of the Friends of the State Arboretum, identifies the culprit as the locust leaf-mining beetle, *Odontota dorsalis*. Native to the Appalachians, this beetle has been known as a pest on black locusts for at least 150 years. This year at the State Arboretum, near Winchester, it even went on to the

oaks. Why 1989 brought such a plague no one knows.

Locust admirers can do little to control beetle damage, but fortunately, few infested trees die. Come spring the black locusts should once again be lacy blue-green.

Pollution or flooding?

Some dilemmas of wetland protection are clear in news reports from the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 6,971 acres in northern New Jersey.

Rising water tables and increasing pollution in the swamp, the result of rapid development in the region, have long concerned conservationists. Last spring state officials ordered a nearby township to clean up effluent flowing into the refuge from its sewage treatment plant. The township then asked to increase the plant's capacity by a third, so it could pay part of the cost by serving new developments. Dilemma: That much more water, even though cleaner, might finally overwhelm the swamp, destroying the very values it was meant to preserve.

This fall the state denied the request to expand plant capacity. Another dilemma: The township must still find funds to clean up the effluent that's still polluting the swamp.

Cullowhee's new director

With the end of the 1989 Cullowhee Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants, a new Director took the reins: Mary Painter. The founder and first President of VNPS, Mary succeeds Richard E. Bir, of North Carolina State University, who held

the position from 1987-89. As a member of the steering committee virtually from the beginning of the Cullowhee conference, she is well acquainted with the challenges of planning and running the conference, which annually offers more than two days of programs to more than 450 people.

A new member of the conference steering committee is VNPS Potowmack Chapter member Jan Midgley.

New in recycling

Recycling of colored plastics is the business of a new firm in southwestern Virginia, the newsletter of the Sierra Club's Virginia Chapter reports. Among the items it accepts for eventual remanufacturing are flower pots, laundry soap and shampoo bottles, oil containers, and milk jugs. For more information, write Bill Hager, 223 1st St. SE, Pulaski, VA 24301.

Garlic mustard invasion

The Illinois Department of Conservation is sounding the alarm on garlic mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* (*A. officinalis*), an introduced biennial that is spreading rapidly in the northern half of the state. *Illinoensis*, published by the state's Plant Conservation Program, reports that in many natural areas garlic mustard is swiftly replacing the native woodland wildflowers, posing a serious threat in forests—the majority of those in northern Illinois—that are not managed by burning or herbicide use.

Garlic mustard is a familiar spring wildflower in many Virginia woodlands. Does it appear to be an increasing problem here too?

See the address label for your membership's expiration date.

Yes, I want to renew my membership in VNPS!

Name(s) _____

Individual \$10

Senior (60 or over) \$5

Sustaining \$100

Family \$15

Senior Family \$10

Life \$250

Patron \$25

Student \$5

Corporate sponsor \$125

Supporting \$50

Associate (group) \$25; delegate _____

I wish to make an additional contribution to VNPS _____ Chapter
in the amount of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____

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

Check here if you do not wish to be listed in a chapter directory.

Make check payable to VNPS and mail to:
VNPS Membership Chair, Route 1, Box 381, Delaplane, VA 22025

CHAPTER NEWS

Jefferson Chapter Expands

Madison County, which lies east of the mountains a little north of Charlottesville, was welcomed this summer into the area served by **Jefferson Chapter**. It joins Albemarle, Nelson, Fluvanna, Greene, and Orange Counties as part of Jefferson.

New Checklist Available

The checklist *Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines of Central Coastal Virginia* is now available from the **John Clayton Chapter**. This 12-page, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" booklet has been produced in a highly readable, non-reduced print size.

Geographic coverage includes the seven jurisdictions of The Peninsula of Virginia (the cities of Hampton, Newport News, and Williamsburg, plus York,

James City, Charles City, and New Kent Counties) and the seven counties of The Middle Peninsula (Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, King and Queen, King William, Richmond, and Essex). The checklist was compiled on the basis of the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora*, 2nd ed. (Harvill *et al.* 1986) and was a joint project of Education, Botany, and Publications.

Copies are available at \$1.25 each (postage included) or \$12.00/dz. from Patrick B. Baldwin, 430 Yale Dr., Hampton, VA 23666 or Donna M. E. Ware, Herbarium, Department of Biology, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Reaching Out

To help encourage young people's understanding and appreciation of native plants, the **Blue Ridge Wildflower Society** will be providing wildflower field

guides to area high schools. On the community college level, the chapter is moving to establish scholarship programs at Patrick Henry, Central, and Virginia Western Community Colleges. The recipients would be full time students in botany or horticulture.

Blue Ridge chapter has also helped plant flower beds in front of one of the buildings of the VA Medical Center in Salem. Center personnel prepared beds, and chapter members planted them with sun-loving perennial wildflowers and garden annuals. Edging and plants were donated in the name of BRWS. Patients and employees in the building have taken good care of the flower beds and added more plants; the staff report that patients have enjoyed working on the project, and that it improved the looks of the building.

Virginia Habitats

Potowmack Chapter will be the first chapter to show the new VNPS slide program, "From Beach to Blue Ridge: Habitats of Virginia's Native Plants." Cris Fleming, who prepared the program as VNPS Education Chair, will present it at a chapter meeting at 7:30 p.m. November 28, at Green Spring Farm Park, Alexandria. All are welcome. **Blue Ridge** chapter will be presenting this program on December 6.

A Place to Rest and Reflect

An unusual but satisfying project for **Piedmont Chapter** was the placing of a bench surrounded by wildflowers along a path in Sky Meadow State Park, in memory of one of the chapter's special members. The bench was contributed by her friends; chapter members did the planning and planting. Sky Meadow, one of Virginia's newer state parks, is in Fauquier County, off Route 17 just north of I-66.

Holiday Giving

Among the gifts the VNPS offers for sale, you may find just the right one for a wildflower enthusiast. And each purchase also makes a gift to the Society. All prices include sales tax and mailing. Order from VNPS-Orders, P.O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Virginia and *Fern and Fern Relatives of Virginia*, VNPS checklists compiled by Dorothy Bliss. Tools for the field botanist. \$1.25 each.

Gardening with Wildflowers and Native Plants. All-new 1989 edition of a popular Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook. \$7.67.

Wetlands, by William A. Niering. Comprehensive Audubon Society field guide to the habitats that were the theme of this year's VNPS annual meeting. \$18.67.

Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers, by Harry Phillips. Definitive reference for wildflower gardeners; from the North Carolina Botanical Garden. \$17.62.

VNPS note cards. Barbara Stewart's pen and ink drawings of Virginia wildflowers. 10 cards, 2 each of 5 designs, with matching envelopes; specify ivory or ice blue. \$7.80 a set.



Virginia Native Plant Society

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