

# NATIVE

# NOTES

**KATE'S MOUNTAIN CLOVER  
BILL GRAFTON – EDITOR**

## **WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 15: 3**

**DECEMBER, 2008**

### **THANKS & HERE IS YOUR NEW BOARD**

We all need to express sincere thanks to Chad Kirschbaum (outgoing President) for his positive leadership efforts, the lecture series at Marshall University, the t-shirt project, teaching us to eat garlic mustard, and identification of so many plants while we were on field trips. He and his wife, Carrie, also introduced us to the joys of youth with their baby, Miles Jensen Kirschbaum.

Donna-Ford Werntz (Treasurer), Steve Mace (Corresponding Secretary) and Lois Kuhl (Board of Trustees) also deserve a big thanks for their accomplishments and helping WV-NPS to be able to meet our goals.

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## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- We had slightly over 20 members on each of the 3 field trips held in Chief Logan State Park. Thanks to Judy Dumke for publicizing the annual meeting. Bill Grafton led the trips and everyone helped in finding and identifying plants. Chief Logan State Park was picked because Logan County has the fewest plants in the WVU Herbarium of any of WV's 55 counties.
- We collected 91 "county records" and 29 historical records in Chief Logan State Park. We also added 3 additional county records outside the park. We are very thankful to Steven Stone at Chief Logan for permission to make these collections that have been deposited in the WVU Herbarium. We will also send Steven a list of all of the collections for their records. The most interesting plants found were Chain Fern (Romie Hughart), Japanese Loosestrife, Panicum verrucosum, river cane and Crossvine (not collected because no good sample was available).
- **NOTE;** Check out this web site for descriptions of many botanical hot spots including Chief Logan [asecular.com/forests](http://asecular.com/forests) Robert Mueller deserves a lot of thanks for the web site.
- Frank Porter will re-design our recruitment brochure so we can each print them from the WVNPS web site: [www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org)
- Chad Kirschbaum will organize another winter lecture series at Marshall University
- We voted to donate \$100 to the Fortney wetland display at WVU, \$100 to both the WVU & Marshall Herbaria, and \$50 to the WVU Bryophyte collection.
- Bill Grafton, Lawrence Beckerle, and Frank Porter will form a committee to re-evaluate species to recommend for the WV Noxious Weed List
- Lawrence Beckerle will look for grants to create a demonstration site to reclaim old strip mines with native plants. WVNPS may be a co-sponsor.
- We decided to create an award to recognize efforts to use native plant materials in landscaping. Jeff Patton will create a certificate and we will make awards at least annually. The Carriage Trail in Charleston is recipient of the first award.
- The next Board meeting will be in late January or early February. Chad Kirschbaum will teach a Grass Identification workshop and Frank Porter will give a lecture on using grasses, sedges, etc. in landscaping.
- Treasury balance as of Sept. 2008 \$1851.62

-----[www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org)-----

Have you returned the nomination form for, "**IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITAT, NATURAL AREAS, FORESTS, AND FARMLAND IN WEST VIRGINIA**"???

**Please nominate any unique natural areas so they can be considered for long-term protection and management. The nomination form was an insert in the August 2008 Native Notes.**

## **PLAN FOR SPRING WHILE THE SNOW BLOWS**

Listed below are nurseries that grow native plants. Some are all native and some are a mixture of native and introduced plants. Regardless, winter is a great time to plan your landscaping needs for spring.

Porterbrook Native Plants Phone:740 247-4565 Web site: porterbrooknative plants.com  
\_ Frank Porter is a WVNPS member & on the Board of Trustees. Located at Racine, OH

Elk Ridge Nature Works, LLC Phone:301 895-3686 Web site: elkridgenatureworks.com  
\_Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell are active WVNPS members. Location, Grantsville, MD

Enchanter's Garden Phone: 304 466-3154 Web site: enchantersgarden.com  
Peter Heus is an active member of WVNPS. Located near Hinton, WV.

Sunshine Farm and Gardens Phone: 304 497-2208 Web site: sunfarm.com  
Barry Glick is an active WVNPS member. Located at Renick, WV.

Windbeam Way Nursery Phone: 304 765-2608  
Doug and Davetta Jolley Located at Heaters, WV.

Brandywine Conservancy Phone: 610 388-2700 Web site:  
brandywinemuseum.org/NativePlants Location: Chadds Ford, PA

Doyle Farm Nursery Phone: 717 862-3134 Web site: doylefarm.com  
Location Delta, PA

Sylva Native Nursery and Seed Co. Phone 717 227-0486 Web site: sylvanative.com  
Location: Glen Rock, PA

Sylvania Natives Phone: 412 421-8551 Web site: sylvanianatives.com  
Located in Pittsburgh, PA

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Phone: 215 862-1846 Web site: bhwp.org  
Location New Hope, PA

Clear Ridge Nursery, INC. Phone: 888-226-9229 Web site: gonative.us  
Location: Union Bridge, MD

Shooting Star Nursery Phone: 502 867-7979 Web site:shootingstarnursery.com  
Location: Frankfort, KY

Toadshade Wildflower Farm Phone: 908 996-7500 Web site: toadshade.com  
Location: Frenchton, NJ

Easyliving Native Perennial Wildflowers (seeds only) Phone: 573 761-0543  
Web site easywildflowers.com

**YOU CAN HELP!!!**

The US Forest Service is looking for help to solve a botanical problem. Jane Bard at the Gauley Ranger District in Richwood has asked if WVNPS could help remove vegetation that is growing through the crack of the Cranberry Glades boardwalk. There is also some falling onto the boardwalk from the sides.

We agreed at the Annual Meeting to help cut the vegetation and remove it so the boardwalk will still be attractive and safe.

The work will be done in late summer or early autumn when tourist traffic will be light. We will probably get use of the Handley WMA cabin so we can stay overnight and get the work accomplished the following day. **If interested, contact Bill Grafton (Office: 304 293-2941 X2493), Cell phone (304 906-7937 or email: [wgrafton@wvu.edu](mailto:wgrafton@wvu.edu)**

**Pendleton/Grant/Tucker Counties Trip**

On July 22, 2008, a few WV Native Plant Society members enjoyed a great outing to several areas in western Pendleton and Grant Counties. In attendance were: Reba Hutton, Jane Whitaker, Chris Gatens, and Kevin Campbell. Also, during July 21- 23, Chris and I visited Dolly Sods and Canaan Valley areas. Among our findings were: Silvery Nailwort and Rock Spikemoss growing on bare rock along a Grant County roadside; Elecampane-a sun flower-like plant that I had never heard of before. Reba showed them to us at a Dry Fork location.; Purple Virgin's Bower-not only are the flowers purple in the spring, but the seed pods now are purple; Over one hundred Wood Lilies were in bloom in one area of Dolly Sods; and Twenty-five Kidney-Leaf Twayblades were blooming in one small area at Olsen Bog. The twayblades were huge (for twayblades that is) at 12 inches tall.

**Wildcat Run, Grant County**

<i>Cheilanthes lanosa</i>	Hairy Lip Fern
<i>Selaginella rupestris</i>	Rock Spikemoss
<i>Paronychia argyrocoma</i>	Silvery Nailwort
<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>	Dwarf Hackberry
<i>Matelea obliqua</i>	Anglepod

**Smith Mtn. , Pendleton Co.**

<i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i>	Purple Cliff Brake
<i>Allium allegheniense</i>	Allegheny Wild Onion
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	Pink Lady's Slipper
<i>Heuchera alba</i>	White Alumroot
<i>Taenidia Montana</i>	Mountain Pimpernel

**Whites Run/Seneca Creek, Pendleton County**

<i>Hylotelephium telephioides</i>	Wild Liveforever
<i>Actea racemosa</i>	Black Cohosh
<i>Actea pachypoda</i>	Dolls Eyes

**Dry Fork, Randolph County**

*Inula helenium*

*Goodyera pubescens*

*Centaurea nigrescens*

**Elecampane**

**Downy Rattlesnake Plantain**

**Wocheiner Knapweed**

**Abes Run, Tucker County**

*Geum rivale*

*Rhamnus alnifolia*

*Platanthera clavellata*

*Polemonium vanbruntiae*

*Euphorbia purpurea*

*Symphoricarpos albus*

*Platanthera lacera*

**Purple Avens**

**Alder-leaved Buckthorn**

**Green Wood Orchid**

**Jacobs Ladder**

**Glade Spurge**

**Snowberry**

**Ragged Fringed Orchid**

**Dolly Sods**

*Zigadenus leimanthoides*

*Rhynchospora alba*

*Dalibarda repens*

*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*

*Drosera rotundifolia*

*Diervilla lonicera*

*Clematis occidentalis*

*Lilium philadelphicum*

**Oceanorus**

**White Top Beak-rush**

**Star-Violet**

**Three-Toothed Cinquefoil**

**Sundew**

**Bush Honeysuckle**

**Purple Virgin's Bower**

**Wood Lily**

**Olsen Bog**

*Listera smallii*

*Parnassia asarifolia*

*Orontium aquaticum*

*Lycopodiella inundata*

**Kidney-leaf Twayblade**

**Kidneyleaf Grass-of-Parnassus**

**Golden Club**

**Bog Clubmoss**

**COAL MINING @ EAST LYNN WMA: A CONCERN TO OUR MEMBERS**

As of June 2008, the US Bureau of Land Management is to consider issuing two coal leases. The leases were submitted by Agrus Energy WV and Rockspring Development, Inc. Argus wants to lease 7,640 acres bordering a portion of the south shore of East Lynn Lake. Rockspring wants to lease 5,450 acres that border a portion of the north shore of the lake.

Both companies want to extend the life of their existing underground mines located on adjacent private land. Argus estimates the amount of coal to be mined will be 55 million tons. Rockspring estimates 41 million tons. The coal seam is the Coalburg/Winifred seam

No mining would occur beneath East Lynn Lake and no surface mining would take place. The existing mines for Argus and Rockspring have approved mining and reclamation plans from the WV Dept. of Environmental Quality and an approved air quality permit from the DEQ Air Quality Division. Mining will probably start in 1-2 years.

These coal leases came about because mineral rights were transferred from the Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Land Management in an amendment to a Water Resources Act: House Bill.

The Corps of Engineers purchased the land for the East Lynn Lake in the mid-1960s and the land that was not flooded became a WV Wildlife Management Area. The mineral rights for the coal were purchased in the mid-1980s with taxpayer's money. This is causing considerable confusion and concern to several of our WVNPS member and others in the Huntington area.

If the Argus and Rockspring mines had existed in the mid- 1980s, the land very likely would never have been purchased for the East Lynn project and WMA. These lands would have been incompatible with public recreation and camping. Furthermore, flood control was the primary purpose of the East Lynn project.

Short-term effects of mining may be a lowering of the water table. Also mine fires may occur. Long term possibilities are acid water drainage that could create another incident such as took place on the Tug Fork River in Kentucky. That incident annihilated virtually all life in the Tug Fork stream.

### **Shriver's "PALE FRILLY ORCHID" HONORS AL SHRIVER**

A new orchid has been described after 16 years of painstaking efforts of measurements, describing morphological characteristics, and long drives from Pittsburgh, PA to Pocahontas and Randolph Counties. Scott Shriver, Clete Smith and Al Shriver deserve the credit. They also had other botanists take a look: Hal Horwitz, Stan Bentley, Doug Jolley, Tom Sampliner, Rodney Bartgis, Charles Garrett, and Bill Grafton.

The recent article in the North American Native Orchid Journal was authored by Paul Martin Brown, Clete Smith, and J. Scott Shriver. Checkout the Journal at <http://wiki.terrorchid.org/tow:journals>. The Pale Frilly Orchid (*Platanthera shriveri*) is said to be similar to *P. grandiflora* but differs by having deeply laciniate lip segments, longer isthmus of the lip, longer spur, consistently lax inflorescence, concave lip, and erect spreading petals with lacerate margins, free from dorsal sepal, and tapered to the base.

Plants of Pale Frilly Orchids have be found in Somerset County, PA; Watauga County, NC; Highland Co., VA, and Pocahontas and Randolph counties in WV. The plants bloom from mid-July to early August which is later than the Purple Fringed Orchid. Look for them on the Williams River, upper Greenbrier River and Middle Mountain. Please let Clete Smith know if you see any Pale Frillys (email: cletehp@msn.com) . By the way the Pale Frilly Orchid is named in honor of Scott Shriver's Dad, Al Shriver.

## **THE LOST YELLOW RHODODENDRON**

Ashton Berdine with the WV Chapter – TNC found a “strange” rhododendron on Flatrock Plains south of Dolly Sods that had leaves that might match the leaves of the lost Yellow Rhododendron found by local Pocahontas Countians in the mid 1900s. The flowers were described by the local citizens as “yellow as a cow pumpkin” and the shrubs had very large leaves. Maurice Brooks, one of our finest naturalists, visited the site and saw the shrubs but this was after they had bloomed. He collected leaves and deposited them at the National Herbarium, WVU, and Harvard.

**Ashton has added to the intrigue.** Is the shrub on Flatrock Plains the long lost Yellow Rhododendron. Also, does the Yellow Rhododendron still exist near the WV/VA border in Bath or Pocahontas County.

Searching for the Yellow rhododendron could be as mind boggling as searching for the Sutton’s Warbler in Jefferson Co., WV. Are you tempted enough to search for “lost Treasures”??

## **FILMY FERN (TRICHOMANES BOSCHIANUM By- ROMIE HUGHART**

I have seen filmy fern in two different locations in Wayne County. The “Checklist and Atlas of the Flora of WV” published in 2006 only lists one collection since 1977. This was from Kanawha County and I was told it was from Kanawha State Forest. The plant was collected prior to 1977 in Grant, Pocahontas, Wayne and Webster Counties. A specimen from East Lynn WMA, Wayne County was collected and submitted to the WVU Herbarium in 2008. Besides East Lynn, I’ve also seen filmy fern at Mill Creek located south of Fort Gay off US Rt. 52.

The habitat was an indentation in boulder at both locations. The indentions were 2-3 meters deep and anywhere from 4-6 meters wide. The fern grows on the back of the upper part because it requires water seepage from the overlying area.

The fronds are only one cell thick, a little over 1 centimeter wide, and 6-7 centimeters long.

If you desire to see filmy fern, give me a call. The easiest place to get to the fern is Mill Creek. Be prepared to get your feet wet, you will have to cross a creek.

## **THREE GREAT FRIENDS HAVE “FADED AWAY”**

Mike Marks of Huntington died last year. He was a longtime employee of NRCS and managed the TriState chapter listserv for many years.

John Blomberg was a mainstay with conservation efforts, bird watcher’s, native plant landscaping of the Parkersburg Public Library, and the revitalized South Parkersburg Arboretum. Our sympathies go out to his family; especially Marcella (wife) and friends.

Harry Wise loved azaleas and rhododendrons. He hybridized many in his pursuit of beauty and pleasing aromas. A cultivar named “Wise Decision” will always bring memories of Harry back to all who knew him.

**2009 DUES**

**Regular membership-----\$12**

**Student membership----- 8**

**Life membership-----200**

**Chapter membership**

**Kanawha Valley    6**

**Tri-State        6**

**You must be member of the statewide WV-NPS in order to be a member of a local chapter. Make your check payable to “WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY”. Just write one check and state if you are joining one or both chapters. The treasurer will distribute Chapter dues to the proper Chapter.**

**Send dues to :**

**Helen Gibbins**

**6128 Gideon Road**

**Huntington, WV 25705**

**WWW.WVNPS.ORG**