

KATE'S MOUNTAIN CLOVER
BILL GRAFTON – EDITOR

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 16: 1

April, 2009

JUNE 6 BOARD MEETING AND GRASS WORKSHOP - By Mary Sansom

The West Virginia Native Plant Society will hold its late spring meeting from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 6 in room 505 of the Clay Tower Building at the University of Charleston, 2300 MacCorkle Ave. SE, Charleston.

WVNPS Past President Chad Kirschbaum will conduct a free grass identification workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. in room 502 of the Clay Tower Building followed by a short field trip around campus. The lab is limited to 20. To make reservations, please e-mail Chad at cdkirschbaum@yahoo.com Kirschbaum is the botanist for the Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest in Ohio. He has worked as a botanist and ecologist since 1999 in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio. He has a B.S. in forestry from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and a master's in ecosystem ecology from Eastern Michigan University

Directions to the University of Charleston:

From the North: Travel 1-77 South or 1-79 South into Charleston. Follow the signs to 1-64 West. Take Oakwood Road Exit 58A and follow the signs to Route 61 South (MacCorkle Ave.). Travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

From the South: Travel 1-77 North (West Virginia Turnpike). Go through downtown Charleston (ignore the UC sign at MacCorkle Ave.), to 1-64 West. Take Oakwood Road Exit 58A and follow the signs toward Route 61 South-Marmet. Once on Route 61 South (MacCorkle Ave.), travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

From the East: Travel 1-64 West or 1-79 South. From 1-64, go through downtown Charleston (ignore the UC sign at MacCorkle Ave.), continuing West. Once on Route 61 South (MacCorkle Ave.), travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

From the West: Travel 1-64 East to Charleston. Take the Oakwood Road Exit 58A

and follow the signs to Route 61 South-Marmet. Once on Route 61 South (MacCorkle Ave.), travel approximately 1.5 miles. The campus is on the left.

----- Our website wvnps.org -----

FIELD TRIPS

TRI-STATE CHAPTER: BY- JEFF PATTON

Here is a list of the 2009 Native Plant Hikes. As always, I will send out a notice the week before, along with any updates.

May 16th-Jessie Stuart State Nature Preserve. Greenup County, KY. 9:00 am. Directions: From I-64 W take exit 179 for Industrial Pkwy/State Hwy 67, merge onto Industrial Pkwy/KY-67. Take the exit toward KY-207, keep right at the fork to continue toward KY-207. Turn left at KY-207, turn right at E Kentucky Rd/KY-1, continue to follow KY-1. Turn left at W Hollow Rd. Drive to parking area.

June 20th- Bluegrass Ridge Oak Barrens. Wayne National Forest Ironton, OH. Meet at the Lake Vesuvius Dam parking area at 9:00 am. Lake Vesuvius Recreation area is located 6.5 miles north of Ironton, just off State Route 93. TSC picnic will follow.

July : Cranberry Glades Botanical Area. Monongahela National Forest, Richwood, WV. Time and Date: TBA

August 8th Kanawha State Forest., Charleston, WV. From I-64 in Charleston, take Exit 58A, drive south on US 119. Turn left onto Oakwood Rd. at the second stop light, (following the brown and white routing signs) go 3/4 mile and take a left before George Washington High School continuing on Oakwood Road, turn right onto Bridge Rd., and right onto Connell Rd. At the bottom of Connell, make a sharp left onto Kanawha Forest Drive, follow to the forest entrance. Park in the first lot of the left, we will carpool from here. Meet at 9:30 am.

September: State Hike- TBA

September: Mills Creek- Milton, WV. TBA

WVNPS Field Trip:

July 18 & 19 : Cranberry Glades Botanical Area (Listed above with details TBA)
We will meet at the Cranberry Glades Parking Lot at 10 AM on Saturday the 18th.

The purpose is to remove vegetation that is creating a hazardous situation on the boardwalk. This includes plants growing through the cracks between boards and plants adjacent to the boardwalk that have fallen onto the boardwalk. These plants make the boardwalk very slippery when it rains. We will cut the plants with hand pruners or shears, put them in garbage bags and remove them. The US Forest Service will supply garbage bags and has a few pruners and shears.

If you have them, bring the following:

- **Hand pruners**
- **Hedge shears**
- **Knee pads**

We should be able to complete the job in 6 hours or thereabouts. This will leave Sunday for additional exploration in the Cranberry area, along the Scenic Highway, or at Handley Wildlife Management Area. There is tent camping at Handley and we may be able to obtain use of the Handley Cabin. Look for additional details on our website (wvnps.org) or call Bill Grafton 304 906-7937

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST – GARLIC MUSTARD PULL: BY CINDY SANDENO

The Monongahela National Forest will be hosting a "2009 Garlic Mustard Challenge" to help control this species at different locations across West Virginia. Our goal is to collect 10,000 pounds of garlic mustard, and to use the event to spread the word about why invasives are such a problem.

We would like to invite the WVNPS to join us at one of the sites. The closest pull that we will be hosting near Charleston will be at Summit Lake. The three garlic mustard pulls are listed below:

- April 25th – Big Bend Pull & Paddle
- May 16th – Camp Pocahontas Pull
- May 23rd – Summit Lake Pull

For more info visit http://www.afha.us/garlic_mustard/index.html
Or, you can contact eburks@fs.fed.us

This will be one of the first events tied to our Smoke Hole-North Fork CWMA(Cooperative Weed Management Area). The geographic boundary of the CWMA will include the South Branch of the Potomac River in Grant and Pendleton Counties, WV and Highland County, VA and the Mill Creek Watershed. Goals will be to:

1. conduct public awareness campaigns
2. inventory and monitor invasive plants and animals
3. Protect rare communities/species
4. hire a coordinator and develop well-trained labor force

The ad-hoc steering committee will consist of :

- Cindy Sandeno- Monongahela NF
- Keith Fisher –WV Chapter- TNC
- John Schmidt – US FWS
- David Dick – WVDA
- Walt Kordek – WV DNR Wildlife
- Cindy Huebner- USFS Reserch
- Shanda Minney- WV Rivers Coalition
- Traci Hickson – Pend. Co. Farmland Protection Bd.

The Smoke Hole – North Fork CWMA will be a partnership of federal, state and local agencies, local towns, conservation associations, private landowners, etc. that attempt to control invasive plants and animals. Concerted efforts will be made to protect and manage rare plant communities, such as limestone barrens, limestone glades, limestone cliffs and Tuscarora Sandstone outcrops. Rare plants on these habitats include Smoke Hole Bergamot, Virginia Mountain Pimpernel, Yellow Nailwort, & Kate's Mountain Clover. Pike Knob, and North Fork Mountain are sandstone habitats for Canada Mountain Ricegrass, Silver Nailwort, and the southernmost location for red pine. Invasive plants that threaten these rare communities/species are Viper's Bugloss (blue thistle), Spotted Knapweed, Japanese Stiltgrass, and Garlic Mustard. Efforts will also try to help farmers and the WV Dept. of Highways to eliminate weeds and invasive plants.

If you want to get involved in this exciting project, contact Cynthia "Cindy" Sandeno atcmsandeno@fs.fed.us

*****wvnps.org*****

It is time for the “Green Thumbs”

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: porterbrooknativeplants.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

Indian grass – Pepper-and-salt skipper

Kentucky Blue Grass - Pepper-and-salt skipper, Tawny-Edged Skipper, Crossline Skipper, Delaware Skipper, Hobokon Skipper, Indian Skipper, Carolina Satyr, Common Wood Nymph

Little Bluestem – Swarthy skipper, Cobweb skipper, Indian Skipper, Crossline Skipper, Hobonok Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Common Wood Nymph

Orchard grass - European Skipper, Little Wood Satyr

Panic– Leonard’s skipper, Indian Skipper, Tawny-Edged Skipper, Hobokon Skipper, Zabulon Skipper, Northern Broken-Dash

Plumegrass – Clouded Skipper, Northern Pearly Eye

Poa spp.-Least skipper, Peck’s Skipper, Zebulon Skipper, Swarthy Skipper, Cobweb Skipper, Long Dash, Carolina Satyr, Little Wood Satyr

Poverty oat – Indian skipper, Leonard’s Skipper, Hobonok Skipper, Common Wood Nymph

Purpletop – Crossline skipper, Zabulon Skipper, Hobonok Skipper, Common Wood Nymph, Little Glassywing

Rice cutgrass– Least Skipper, Hobomok, and Peck’s Skipper

**Switch Grass – Northern Broken-dash, Delaware Skipper
Velvet Grass – European skipper**

**Weedy grasses (crab, Bent, Bermuda) – Fiery skipper
White Grass – Northern Pearly Eye, Zabulon Skipper**

Sedges – Black Dash, Two-spotted Skipper, Dun Skipper, Eyed Brown, Appalachian Brown,

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CORE ARBORETUM EMAIL NEWS – By: Jon Weems

Groundhog Day Report - February 2, 2009

Years of interviews with the Arboretum’s resident groundhog climatologist, Hillside Hank, have taught me a lot about Hank’s misadventures and a little about winter weather. Hank can be irascible,so I approach his burrow with caution.

The clutter of empty bottles and shredded taco wrappers at Hank’s front door this morning troubled me. Hank’s devoted partner, the rotund Flossie, would never stand for such a mess. The area had looked tidy last Friday.

Calls into the burrow drew no response. This is not unusual, so I've learned to be patient. I called again. I waited. I called again. Eventually, I detected a reluctant stirring below. The first shape that gradually appeared proved to be not Hank, but his son, the rowdy Hank Jr. He turned his head toward me and chattered from behind his usual dark glasses something that sounded like "Wassa maddah wachoo, yah tah kintamee?" This translates from groundhog language as "Yes sir, may I be of service?"

I was about to respond, but I waited to see who else would emerge. A second rodent proved to be Hank, the old man, looking worse than I had ever seen him before. That's pretty bad. A third groundhog also came out and hugged Hank Jr., or tried to * her forelimbs were too short for a proper hug. She was introduced as Sally.

There was no Flossie.

Inquiries brought forth the sad news that Flossie had passed away peacefully Friday evening. Hank Sr. and Jr. had spent Saturday afternoon giving her a proper burial. Then, an informal Sunday wake unexpectedly turned into a super bowl party after Sally dropped in with a cell phone showing live streaming video of the game.

It seems an irate Cardinals fan had tossed the phone from a passing car at the end of the first half, nearly striking Sally, who then began to drag the phone away. The car had then returned. Spotting Sally and the phone, the passengers had jumped out and given chase. Sally, still clutching the phone, had stumbled into Hank's burrow. The trio of rodents had then watched the rest of the game before the phone's battery went dead.

I expressed my condolences for the loss of Flossie. Hank Jr. and Sally dropped back into the burrow while Hank Sr. waddled off about thirty feet. I followed. Hank stopped at a plastic artificial flower, patted a mound of recently disturbed earth, and said, "Flossie." I doffed my cap. Under the circumstances, I was reluctant to ask for a forecast as Hank returned to his burrow, but he said, "I'm going back to bed" before dropping out of sight.

He looked like he needed to go back to bed. I picked up the greasy Taco Bell papers and the empty Bud Light bottles, left the plastic flower, and returned to my truck, secure in the knowledge that Hank's resumption of his rest meant we could count on six more weeks of what passes for winter in Morgantown in February and early March.

WVU Arboretum Wildflower Alert

Spring is here! I understand the vernal equinox took place at 7:47 AM EDT this morning, March 20 2009. For the next six months, the sun will be directly overhead somewhere in the tropical northern hemisphere.

Some of the wildflowers didn't wait for the equinox. Showy coltsfoot and a few tiny wildflowers such as harbinger-of-spring have been blooming for over a week. Bloodroot, the showiest and most prolific of the early wildflowers in the Arboretum, began to pop open when the mercury hit 70F earlier this week. Bloodroot should be quite evident this weekend and next week, especially on sunny afternoons.

We've had very little rain lately. Soil moisture is adequate now, but as plants begin to draw more water from the ground, things could dry out quickly unless the weather pattern changes to a wetter one. Assuming rains come, the Arboretum's Virginia bluebells should dazzle us with the peak of their bloom around April 20.

As always, guided wildflower walks will begin at 2:00 PM the last three Sundays in April. For 2009 that would be April 12, 19, and 26. Jon Weems and Dr. Donna Ford-Werntz of the WVU Department of Biology will serve as guides.

Jon Weems, Arboretum Specialist, WVU Department of Biology, Morgantown, WV 26506-6057
Phone: 304-293-5201 ext. 31547

-----website: wvns.org -----

WVA Herbarium News

The WVU Herbarium hosted a record number of 39 visitors from 8 different states during 2008. In addition 3 tour groups came to learn about the facility. The Herbarium

sent 14 loans of 715 specimens, and responded to 22 information requests for voucher label data.

In 2008 the Herbarium was given 952 vascular plant specimens, by a record number of 14 donors. Several were WVNPS members. Keep up the good work!! Donna's talented staff of 5 work-study students and 3 volunteers mounted, sorted and filed 2,370 specimens.

Note: For those of us who search for plants in the field we need to judiciously collect county records (use the Atlas) and press and dry these vouchers. The send them to Donna so we can get a more complete idea of the plants that occur in each of WV's 55 counties.

Dr. Donna Ford-Werntz provided 36 plant identifications and replied to 93 other botanical inquiries in 2008. She also conducted 4 wildflower tours in the WVU Arboretum. Donna also has a graduate student, Rodney Dever, who is studying one of the onion complex (*Allium cernuum*, *allegeniense*, and *onyphilum*).

Bryophytes

Dr. Sue Studlar provided 360 bryophyte identifications for the WV DNR and led a fall moss hike at the WV Botanic Garden near Morgantown

POCAHONTAS TREASURE

Tucked in the valley of the Greenbrier River north of Cass Scenic Railroad and the Greenbank Radio Astronomy Center is the small town of Bartow, WV. There is a "satellite" US Forest Service Greenbrier Ranger Station located here beside US Route 250. Wendy Campbell and others have been developing a "**POLLINATOR STATION**" of native plants that will attract native bees and other pollinators. The workers made great progress last year, and the garden is well worth you time to stop or detour from other attractions to check it out. Call 304 456-3335

Certificate of Appreciation

The Board Trustees agreed at our 2008 Annual Meeting to present Certificates of Appreciation for groups or individuals who have completed excellent examples of landscaping with native plants. The first award selected was the **CARRIAGE TRAIL AT SUNRISE in Charleston.**

The second award will go to the Parkersburg Library Arboretum. Many of us call this beautifully landscaped garden/arboretum, **John Blomberg's Healing Garden.** John toiled tirelessly to establish this area of native wildflowers and trees alongside numerous other volunteers. Unfortunately John died suddenly in the autumn of 2008. The area includes several flower beds, many trees and shrubs, a bed of grasses, and a pond/bog. Contributions can be sent to PLA Development Fund, 3100 Emerson Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26104. Volunteers are always welcome!!

NOTE: Ann Payne, one of our life members, achieved "WV Wild Yard" status with the WV DNR- Wildlife Diversity. Congratulations!!

NEW MEMBERS

John C. Timpone
John McFerrin
Penelope Swann
Philip and Sara Simpson
Diane Holsinger
Mark Watson, PhD
Carrie Mullen
Jim Kirk
Anita Ray

2009 DUES - If you have not already paid your 2009 dues, please send them to the Treasurer, Mae Ellen Wilson, 1525 Hampton Rd., Charleston, WV 25314. Dues are \$12/member. If you wish to support the Tri-State chapter and/or the Kanawha Valley chapter, add \$6/chapter.

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:

**Mae Ellen Wilson- Treasurer
1525 Hampton Rd.
Charleston, WV 25314-1656**

**WV NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
ATTN: Bill Grafton
Native Notes Editor
456 WEST VIRGINIA AVENUE
MORGANTOWN, WV 26501-6434**

WWW.WVNPS.ORG

**TRIFOLIUM VIRGINICUM
KATE'S MOUNTAIN CLOVER**