

NATIVE

NOTES

Kate's Mountain Clover

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WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SEPTEMBER 25-27

Lawrence T. Beckerle : President Phone: 304 742-3639

Annual meeting field trips

FRIDAY EVENING SEPT. 25 5 PM Meet at the Underwood Road Parking Lot.

Meadow River

Parking is available along Underwood Road just west of US Highway 19 immediately north of the Nicholas/ Fayette County Line.

From the South

Proceed north on Highway 19

As you cross the bridge over Meadow River you will be crossing the Fayette Nicholas County line

The very next road on the left after crossing the bridge is Underwood Road. Meet at the parking area

From the North

Underwood Road is just over ten miles from Summersville (when using a trip odometer starting at the stoplight next to Dairy Queen

SATURDAY MORNING SEPT. 26 8:30 AM Start from Muddlety Cabin in Veterans Memorial Park.

Old growth forest in Pierson Hollow of Canifex Ferry park

Include stop at dam emergency spillway on the way back to Summersville

From US Highway 19 go west on highway 129, cross Summersville Dam, pass through emergency spillway area and proceed until you see highway make a sharp turn to the right. At this sharp turn, there is a road to the left. This road takes you directly to Canifex Ferry Park. Stay on this road through the park until you reach the end. Meet in parking lot on the left at the Overlook.

Saturday at noon (suggested optional intermediate meeting area)

Ranch House Restaurant "outside restaurant area" located on WV Highway 55 between Calvin & Craigsville

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 26 1:00 PM WILL START FROM THE RANCH HOUSE RESTAURANT

Tioga

Trip A: Big Beaver Creek wetlands, meet at Brickhouse Road (better known as Y hollow Road by locals)

Expect to see excellent examples of winterberry holly in all its fall glory along with swamp rose and so on from a gentle walk along an old railroad grade. Note the old railroad grade is frequently used by off road vehicles, so it may be a little dusty.

Trip B: How the history of soils affects plant life, for example: black cohosh versus blue cohosh. What geology can tell us about how and where to build roads. What geology and the history of soils can teach us about land use patterns and mining issues. Lawrence T. Beckerle will lead a small group on a tour of private property along an old logging/access road to a hilltop plateau of about 20 acres of Lilly loam soil (8 to 15 percent slope) and a couple areas that are classified as Lilly loam (15 to 25 percent slope).

Please note that this walk will involve a net climb in elevation of nearly 400 feet and a total length of over one mile. Participants are advised to bring water or other fluids and trail food. To complete this trip in 3.5 hours will require some brisk walking.

Participation is limited to 12 people.

Directions for Saturday afternoon.

From the north

From highway 79 take highway 19 south until you reach the outskirts of Summersville. The first stoplight will be at the Nicholas County High School on the left with Southern Sates Coop on the right

As you continue through the light, you will notice a golf course on the left, which is part of Memorial Park. The very next turnoff to the left is the entrance to Memorial Park.

For the Saturday afternoon field trip, continue a short distance pass the entrance to Memorial Park to a stoplight that is the intersection of Highway 41 with 19. There will be a McDonald's on the right and a bridge on the left with a Go Mart near to it. At this stoplight, you should make a left onto highway 41 North.

By contrast, people coming from the south and proceeding north on highway 19 to Summersville, will see a stoplight at Mount Nebo. As they proceed north they will cross Hughes Bridge over Summersville Lake. From Hughes Bridge proceed north and pass through five stoplights. At the sixth stoplight they should take a right onto highway 41 north.

Proceed for about eight miles. Near the end of eight miles you will cross two relatively new bridges with a widen section of road. The first bridge crosses Little Beaver Creek. The second crosses over Big Beaver Creek. In this area the speed limit is reduced to 45 mph. After the Big Beaver creek crossing, the Ranch House Restaurant will be on your left. You can enter a gravel parking lot or enter it by way of Tioga Road, which is also on the left. If you pass a business with used logging equipment on your right, you have missed the road to Tioga.

For the field trip proceed north on Tioga Road for about six miles. Near the end of six miles, you should notice Bear Pen Road on your left with one kind of arched bridge over Beaver Creek. You may want to return to this road later in the afternoon. For the initial part of the field trip, continue on Tioga Road until Brickhouse Road is on your left. Take the left and proceed about 500 feet for the start of the field trip. Before getting to Brickhouse Road, you will notice a stand of Japanese knotweed on your left.

SATURDAY EVENING; WVNPS BUSINESS/MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 PM

Muddlety Cabin in Memorial Park

Direction

See above for entrance To Memorial Park

When entering Memorial Park, the entrance to the golf course and Summersville Visitor Center will be on your left, Ball fields will be on you right.

As you proceed straight ahead, you may notice a veterans memorial on your left and a dining hall.

After you pass these you may notice gate, which often just has one side open and one side closed. After you pass through this gate Muddlety cabin will be on your left.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPT. 27: 9:30 AM MEET AT Muddlety cabin

Muddlety Creek trail is run by the city of Summersville. This is the easiest walk planned for the weekend. The north end of the trail is off of West Webster Road (east side of highway 19). It is the prettiest with a nice waterfall at the parking lot. However, the parking lot is SMALL.

There is maybe room for ten cars.

The south entrance is off of highway 39. This parking lot is large.

It is near the sewage treatment plant, which is reportedly odorless due to use of the best available technology.

As an alternative or as a later activity

I could take people to the former site of Albion.

Those of you who read the Flora of West Virginia by Al Core know that Kate's Mountain Clover was reportedly found near Albion. Part of land near Albion is owned by the US Park Service and part is owned by Class 6 rafting. The population if it still occurs is important, because it was the only population of Kate's Mountain clover that did not occur on Devonian shale.

The Tri-State chapter of the Native Plant Society sponsored an outing at Kanawha State Forest on August 8, 2009. Twenty people gathered to walk the Middle Ridge Trail, with the aim of finding the Yellow fringed orchid (*Habenaria ciliaris*). Yes, we did! Unfortunately there was an abundance of Japanese stilt grass next to the trail. Submitted by: Helen Gibbins

Here is a partial list of blooming flowers we saw on the trail.

Thin-leaved or three-lobed coneflower – *Rudbeckia triloba*
Joe Pye-weed – *Eupatorium fistulosum*
Boneset – *Eupatorium perfoliatum*
Mist flower – *Eupatorium coelestinum*
Hairy Thoroughwort – *Eupatorium pilosum*
Round-leaved Thoroughwort – *Eupatorium rotundifolium*
Woodland sunflower – *Helianthus divaricatus*
Thinleaved sunflower – *Helianthus decapetalus*
Small wood sunflower - *Helianthus microcephalus*
Purple headed Sneezeweed – *Helenium nudiflorum*
Wood tickseed - *Coreopsis major*
Green-headed or Tall Coneflower – *Rudbeckia laciniata*
Swamp thistle - *Cirsium muticum*
Grass-leaved goldenrod – *Solidago graminifolia*
Pale Indian-plantain – *Cacalia atriplicifolia*
Pearly Everlasting – *Anaphalis margaritacea*
Maryland Hawkweed – *Hieracium marianum*
Cardinal flower – *Lobelia cardinalis*
Downy lobelia – *Lobelia puberula*
Tall bellflower – *Campanula Americana*
Jewel weed, touch-me-not – *Impatiens capensis*
Yellow Jewel weed – *Impatiens pallida*
Virgin's Bower – *Clematis virginiana*
Common St. Johnswort – *Hypericum perforatum*
Downy skullcap – *Scutellaria incana*
Japanese loosestrife (alien) - *Lysimachia japonica*
White or Nettle-leaved vervain – *Verbena urticifolia*
False nettle – *Boehmeria cylindrical*
Wood nettle – *Laportea Canadensis*
Monkey flower – *Mimulus ringens*
Field or Purple Milkwort – *Polygala sanguinea*
Panicled Tick-Trefoil – *Desmodium paniculatum*
Sensitive Plant – *Cassia nictitans*
Honewort – *Cryptotaenia canadensis*
White Avens – *Geum canadense*
Netted chain fern – *Woodwardia areolata*
Climbing fern - *Lygodium palmatum*
Sensitive fern – *Onoclea sensibilis*
Christmas fern – *Polystichum acrostidoides*
Shining or Winged sumac – *Rhus copallina*
Smooth sumac – *Rhus glabra*
Staghorn sumac – *Rhus typhina*

A NATIVE PLANT CAPITOL?

By: Doren Burrell G.immer@doren.net

For some time now, I have been perturbed at the amount of money and effort that goes into decorating the WV Capitol grounds with exotic plants and endless plantings of annuals. Very few of the plants on the Capitol campus are native species and some of you may have heard me complain that there is not a single rhododendron on the entire grounds.

Well, the other night I happened to meet David Oliverio who is the Director of Facilities for all of the Capitol buildings and grounds. I mentioned the idea to him that visitors to the Capitol ought to be able to see a variety of plants that are endemic or, at least, typical of the state flora. To my great surprise, he was very supportive of the idea.

He mentioned that he has a new employee on his staff with a background in Landscape Architecture and that this would be a good project for this person. He saw that such a project would not be particularly expensive for the Dept. of Administration and that it would provide an additional attraction for visitors to the Capitol.

I have suggested that the WV Native Plant Society could provide support for this project and, perhaps, even suggest species to include. (The Native Plant Society might also create a descriptive brochure for the information desk at the Capitol.) Certainly some of the native plant nurseries in the state would like to participate in a project that promotes their businesses.

In addition, I think this could be of use to the DNR. This could offer an entry into some of the wildlife education programs. If building and planning projects on state parks and lands might otherwise damage existing plant patches, perhaps some of these plants could be rescued and transplanted to this native plant garden.

Mr. Oliverio's interest seemed quite genuine. He could easily have dismissed the thought or given no commital, but he endorsed it and verified that when I asked him about it on a later date. I hope you find this news as exciting as I do. With his support, I think that such a project could become a reality without too many demands on any of the parties involved.

Editor's Note: Mae Ellen Wilson, WVNPS Treasurer, submitted the above idea with her very strong endorsement. Helen Gibbins thought a good first step would be for WVNPS members to conduct an inventory of trees and other plants that already exist on the Capitol grounds and visit the Ohio Capitol grounds in Columbus that has been turned into a showcase of native plants.

Please take time and send your thoughts to our Officers and Board members.

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NATIVE NURSERIES NEWS

Enchanter's Garden now has a web site: www.enchantersgarden.com

Check out Winston Gardens Nursery
Virginia (Provenzano) Winston Landscape Design & Gardens
Specializing in Native Plants Located in the Eastern Panhandle
Phone: 304 267-6924 or www.winstongardens.com

Frank Porter (Porterbrook Native Plants) Porterbrooknative@yahoo.com
Hosting a Fall Gathering Sept. 5-7 Phone: 740 247-4565

CRANBERRY GLADES BOARDWALK WORKDAY: July 22nd

WV-NPS members cooperated with the US Forest Service to remove 20+ large garbage bags of plants that were creating a safety hazard by growing in the boardwalk cracks and along the edges. We worked hard from 10 am until mid-afternoon when a gully washer thunderstorm unloaded. After it passed through we went nearby to see Pale Green Orchis and Swamp Saxifrage and Early Coralroot. After more rain we went to Buckeye and explored a bit of the Greenbrier Rive Rail Trail where the highlight was Purple Fringeless Orchids in perfect bloom. We ended the day with a "touch of Pocahontas County" at French's Diner in Marlinton. The work party consisted of Mae Ellen Wilson and Julian Martin, Danny and Sharon Stevenson, Elizabeth Byers, Mark Bossert, Lawrence Beckerle, Kevin Campbell, Nathan Beane and Bill Grafton. Thanks to Cindy Sendeno and Diana Stull (USFS) for their help!!

PLANTS EXHIBITING DICHOTOMOUS BRANCHING

By: Romine Hughart

Lycopods (Division Lycophyta) are spore-bearing vascular land plants that have scale like to grass like, spirally arranged leaves. Spores are typically produced in terminal strobili or cones. Lycopods are dichotomously branched (each branch point results in a pair of equal sized branches). This branching mode is characteristic of several of the earliest land plants but uncommon among today's vascular plants. Modern lycopods are typically small, inconspicuous plants classified in 3 genera: Lycopodium, Selaginella, and Isoetes.¹

It is believed this group of plants arose from the earliest land plants. It is believed the earliest land plants arose from the algae family Chlorophyceae. This evolution from an algae ancestor is exhibited in the sexual reproductive cycle. Reproduction occurs through alternation of generations. The sporophyte produces spores which develop into the gametophyte. Swimming gametes from the antheridium and egg of the archegonium of the gametophyte develop into the sporophyte.² Due to this mode of reproduction, these plants need moist environmental conditions. The sex organs are found on the underside of the gametophyte.

The Lycopods were once represented by large trees during the Devonian Period (417-354 mya) and Carboniferous Period (354-290 mya). Today these plants are represented by relatively small plants that possess microphylls, or leaves with a single vascular strand.

Genus Lycopodium (Club-Moss)

Probably the most common clubmoss in our area is the *Huperzia lucidula* (Shining Club-Moss). It grows to around 5-8 inches tall. It can be found on the hillsides in open forests.

Genus Selaginella (Spike-Moss)

These are inconspicuous matted plants which lie on, or close to the ground around other vegetation. They resemble mosses, but have true stems which mosses lack. They grow to about 1 inch in length and are found in wet meadows and margins of ponds and marshy creeks. The only living genus is *Selaginella*.

Genus Isoetes (Quillworts)

This plant appears rush like. It has an underground globose tuber. The leaves grow up to 20 inches long. *Isoetes* is the only living genus. It grows emerged in ponds, slow moving streams, bogs and ditches.⁴

Scouring Rush (Division Equisetophyta)

Equisetum, the only living genus, is considered the most ancient living genus of vascular plants.³ These plants appeared during the late Devonian Period.

Equisetum arvense produces fertile and non-fertile stems. It can grow to 20 inches and appears along stream banks, wet meadows and ditches. The cells of the leaves and stems accumulate angular particles of silica as metabolic by-products, making them quite abrasive.

1. Feldman, Rodney. 1996 Fossils of Ohio, Bulletin 70 Dept. of Natural Resources
2. Sinnott, Edmund. 1938 Cryptogams Botany, Vol II. Bryophytes and Pteridophytes
3. Walters, Dirk. Keil, David. Murrell, Zack. 200 Vascular Plant Taxonomy, Fifth Edition
4. Evans, Murray. 2005 Ferns of the Smokies

2009 DUES

Regular membership-----\$12

Student membership----- 8

Life membership-----200

Chapter membership

 Kanawha Valley 6

 Tri-State 6

You must be a 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 either chapter. The Treasurer will distribute Chapter dues to the proper Chapter.

Send dues to:

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**Trifolium virginicum
Kate's Mountain Clover**

