

NATIVE



NOTES

Kate's Mountain Clover *

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17:3

DECEMBER 2009

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Winter Tree and Shrub Identification Workshop January 16th 2009 (immediately following the WVNPS winter board meeting)

Ever wonder how to tell an oak sapling from a hop-hornbeam sapling in the winter when the trees have no leaves? How do you distinguish between blackhaw and deerberry shrubs based on their leaf scars? Did you know that black cherry bark twigs when scratched smells like almond? Bark, twig and leaf scar characteristics are all important when trying to learn how to identify trees and shrubs in their dormant form. You will need to employ your senses of sight, touch, taste and even smell when trying to identify a woody plant in winter form.

Please join us on Saturday, January 16th for a workshop on winter tree and shrub identification. We will start with a quick review of terminology at 12:30 and go to the field at 1:30. The workshop will conclude at 4:30. The workshop will be held at the University of Charleston, Charleston WV. For directions and a campus map visit http://www.ucwv.edu/visiting_campus/default.aspx, for information on building and room contact Chad Kirschbaum (740) 534 6535 or ckirschbaum@fs.fed.us (work) or (606) 327 1181 or cdkirschbaum@yahoo.com (home) or Helen Gibbins (304) 736 3287 or gibbins@verizon.net

I will be teaching from William Harlow's Fruit Key and Twig Key to Tree and Shrubs published in 1946 by Dover Publications, Inc. Despite its out-dated nomenclature, I find it to be a reliable key with good photos. The best part about it is that you can buy yourself a new copy for \$4.95 or a used copy at little as \$1.79 (Amazon.com)! If you can, please bring a copy of this book to the workshop as I will be going over the use of the keys in this book. Also a 10-X hand lens would also be helpful

Seek comfort in learning how to identify trees and shrubs in dormant form. The world of leaf scars, vascular bundle scars and false terminals is a fascinating field of study. Not to mention how much your friends and family will be impressed when you tell them, "No, no, no that can't be a walnut tree because walnuts have chambered piths!"

*USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 2: 356

Twig Terminology: A Primer for the workshop

Use Google, Harlow's Fruit Key and Twig Key to Tree and Shrubs or the websites below to learn the definition of the following terms. This will help you prepare for the workshop and get us into the field faster so we can see many different tree and shrubs in winter form. Also the characteristics with a * can be found on the diagram below. See if you can find them!

Alternative vs. Opposite Branching

Leaf scar*

False terminal (or pseudoterminal) bud scales*

Valvate bud scales

Clustered buds

Chambered pith

Stipule scar

Lenticel*

Terminal vs. Lateral buds*

Vascular bundle scar*

Imbricate bud

Bud scale scar*

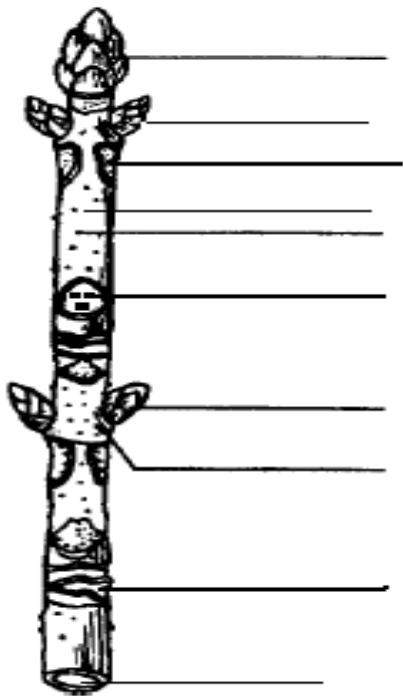
Pith*

Hollow pith

Naked bud

Node vs. Internode*

TWIG CHARACTERISTICS



Does this twig have opposite or alternate branching?

adapted from www.dof.gov

Here are a few website to help you get started:

https://fp.auburn.edu/sfws/samuelsan/dendrology/bud_and_twig_characteristics.htm

http://msuplants.com/SaylorPlants/Ref_Info/Buds_Twigs_01.htm
<http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/publications/bull117/characteristics.htm>

WORTHY OF NOTE

AVAILABLE NOW TO PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING FIELD SEASON OR FOR GIFTS

Wildflowers and Trees of West Virginia: Identifying the State's Flora including Shrubs and Vines by Christopher Gatens and Emily Grafton. Illustrations in color by Erin Turner. Plants are arranged by color. This book is especially useful for novices. 4" x 6.5" just the right size to fit into a pocket or back pack. Paperback, 187 pages. \$9.95. Shipping for \$4.50 covers the 1st and 2nd book; 50 cents for each additional book. WV residents add 6% sales tax (60 cents). Order from West Virginia Book Company. 1125 Central Ave., Charleston WV 25302. 304-342-1848. FAX 304-343-0594. 1-888-982-7472 wvbooks@verizon.net. You may also be able to find the book at your local book store or on line.

WILD FLOWER NURSERY

Another nursery that may carry that plant you have been searching for, please add this to the previously published list.

Toadshade Wildflower Farm, 53 Everittstown Rd. Frenchtown NJ 08825
Toadshade specializes in nursery grown and propagated perennial plants native to northeastern North America. Toadshade grows ferns, herbaceous wildflowers, grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees. They have a free print catalogue available from the address above or from toadshad@toadshade.com or calling (908) 996-7500 or FAX (908) 996-7500.

EVENTS AND CALENDER

West Virginia State Park events, please verify with <http://www.wvstateparks.com/calendar.html>

January 9 Annual winter walk Kanawha State Forest

April 3 Annual clean up Beech Fork State Park

April 16-18 Redbud Weekend Cacapon Resort State Park

Spring Workshops Twin Falls State Resort Park

April 17 Sue Brown Wildflower Hike Chief Logan State Resort Park

April 22 Earth Day Canaan Valley Resort Park

April 24 Show me Hike Greenbrier State Forest

Osbra Eye Memorial Walk Kanawha State Forest

January 22-23 2010 MIPN East Lansing Michigan Invasive Plant Symposium

<http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/>

February 18 2010 Columbus Oh. Ohio Invasive Plant Society Research Conference

<http://www.oipc.info>

February 20 2010 Columbus Oh Ohio Natural History Conference _

<http://www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org/whatsnew.html#meetings>

March 26, 2010 Columbus, Oh Ohio Botanical Symposium _

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/20259/Default.aspx>

Invasive species calendar <http://www.nps.gov/Plants/alien/pubs/calendar.htm> Free download

West Virginia Native Plant Society Native Notes December 2009

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM (BILL) GRAFTON

The following were presented at the memorial service in Morgantown on September 27, 2009

From Donna Ford-Werntz

I'm Donna Ford-Werntz, a plant taxonomist who met Bill when I joined the WVU Biology Dept. in 1995. My faculty position here includes being curator of the WVU Herbarium (in the Life Sciences Building). For those of you not lucky enough to be botanists, the herbarium is a collection of pressed plant specimens. The WVU herbarium has plants from around the world, with about half being from West Virginia.

Of those nearly 85,000 West Virginia specimens, about 22,000 (almost ¼) were contributed by Bill Grafton from his four decades of collecting. During the past 13 years, Bill stopped by the herbarium seven or eight times per year, bringing bundles averaging about 200 plant specimens. I've commented many times that Bill must have had a hidden camera in the herbarium, because, as soon as a batch got processed, it seemed he would come along with another.

Bill's knowledge and documentation of the West Virginia flora is unsurpassed. However, what I most remember, from numerous botanical meetings and field trips with Bill, is his unassuming and uncomplaining demeanor. Bill's death heralds the close of an era in West Virginia plant fieldwork. His name and legacy will live on with those of our botanical predecessors: Millspaugh, Sheldon, Strausbaugh, and Core. Others can attest to Bill's long and extensive influence through the state naturalist and conservation community, as well. Bill will be sorely missed by those who knew him, and it will take many people to fill his shoes.

From P. J. Harmon

How I wish I could be present this day to share in both the grief of loss and wonderful celebration of the life and service of our friend, Bill Grafton. Sadly, I cannot join you today because last Monday I underwent a "re-do" of open heart surgery at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA. When I was in Mon General Hospital in Morgantown, Bill and many friends and family helped me through the first surgery. After, Bill and I continually communicated of our mutual hope and faith one day we'd be back in the field together.

I first heard about Bill Grafton from Emily Williams (Grafton) at Marshall University. Truth is, I asked Emily out on a date, and she sweetly, gently turned me down, saying, "Oh PJ, that's so nice of you to ask, but I've gone to a Brooks Bird Club outing and met the most wonderful man name Bill Grafton, and I'm hopelessly in love with him! In fact, if I can swing it, I'm gonna' marry that guy! He's knows so much natural history, and is amazing in his ability to mesmerize you as he teaches the plants and birds!" And as we all know, she did, too!

I first met Bill when looking for a master's degree study project in West Virginia having gone to grad school in southern Illinois. While investigating my choices, Bill graciously met me along the New River, where I was utterly stunned at his knowledge of not only the flora of the New River, but of the entire state, it seemed to me! He had a photographic memory. As we hiked and botanized, he was one of the most gracious teachers I've ever met, patient with my beginner's knowledge of the flora, complimentary when managed to dredge up something from my considerably NOT photographic memory, and always and forever encouraging my spark of interest! And as you all know, Bill did that with everybody!

We met again at the Wildflower Pilgrimage, when Ron Fortney had hired me for a couple summers as a seasonal naturalist at Tygart Lake State Park, and then asked me to come help him launch a new program for "the

Pilgrimage” called orienteering, using maps and compass for fun in the woods! We became close friends years later after I completed study of North Fork Mountain, and Brian McDonald hired me to be the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Botanist for the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program.

I remember in 1989 or 1990 when Brian and I interviewed Bill with a microcassette tape recorded about his knowledge of rare vascular plants of West Virginia. I still have those tapes in my desk drawer! Brian and I were speechless as we asked him, “have you seen ...” vascular species after vascular species, and Bill would pause briefly, and begin reciting chapter and verse of the day, date, time, who went with him, and all the plant species they saw, and how to get back to them!! I turned to Brian later as we drove back to the office, saying, “I sure hope you don’t expect me to be able to do what Bill Grafton just did for five 2.5 hours!” Paraphrasing Brian, “I don’t think anybody else I know could do what we just witnessed!”

Bill was one of the first, most enthusiastic supporters of an idea originally launched by Brian McDonald and Sam Norris, the West Virginia Native Plant Society (WVNPS)! Tina Hall, formerly of the West Virginia field office of The Nature Conservancy and I decided to try to restart the society after about a seven year hiatus, and Bill, enthusiastically loved the idea and served on the board of directors. He has been an officer, board member, and one of the society’s most passionate supporters.

Bill and I didn’t go into the field together as much as I wish, but we served with Ron Fortney, Donna Ford-Werntz, and others on the fledgling Flora West Virginia Committee. After twelve hard working years, we completed *The Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia*, dedicated to our now deceased friend, Ron Fortney.

Last week, before going off to surgery again, I spoke remembrances of Ron Fortney and Bill Grafton at Ron’s memorial service. Recently, Bill chuckled that while he admired my guitar playing and appreciated the sentiment behind my trying to get him to join me in a song or two, he wasn’t about to get up in front of our beloved Pilgrimage crowd and sing “The Rhododendron Song”! Still, the words of that song came to me as I prepared to speak about Ron and Bill,

“I want to wake up, in the mornin’, where the Rhododendron’s grow,
where the sun comes a creepin’ into where I’m a sleepin’,
and the song birds sing below!
I want to wander through the wild woods,
Where the fragrant breezes blow,
And drift back to the mountain, where the Rhododendron’s grow.

I want to wake up, in the mornin’, where the Rhododendron’s grow,
Where the Lord is so near me, when He breaths I can hear Him,
And the whole world starts to glow!
I want to lay down all my burdens, and forget my weary woes,
And stay here in West Virginia, where the Rhododendrons grow!

It gives me comfort to think that on that fateful Friday, Ron and his buddy Bill found another wetland in another West Virginia in the here after, and they carry collecting bags where the Rhododendron’s grow!

RON FORTNEY

Dr. Ron Fortney, original co-chair of the Flora WV committee, past coordinator of the Heritage Program, and later Chief Naturalist of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Parks Division served the state well prior to becoming a faculty member at Salem University and later WVU died September 11, 2009. For the last nine years he had been in a coma resulting from an accident. All those who knew him or worked with him on many of the projects he inspired or facilitated will both miss his judgment and council and know that he is now at peace.

Field Trip Plant Lists

The 2009 annual meeting of the WVNPS included two field trips. The Summersville area of Nicholas County was the site of both trips.

The first was on September 25, 2009 and covered the Meadow River starting at the US RT 19 bridge over the Meadow River then followed an old carriage road on its descent to the river side.

Plants of interest included:

<i>Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis</i>	Royal Fern
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Spinulose Shield Fern
<i>Andropogon gyrans</i>	Elliot's Beardgrass
<i>Solidago simplex ssp randii</i>	Riverbank Goldenrod
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Holly
<i>Xanthorhiza simplissima</i>	Yellowroot
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree
<i>Rhodendron arborescens</i>	Smooth Azalea
<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	Nodding Ladies Tresses
<i>Hexastylis virginica</i>	Coltsfoot
<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	Yellow Stargrass

The second trip was on September 2, 2009 to Muddlety Creek along a trail through a ravine-cove community dominated by beech and hemlock.

Plants of interest included:

<i>Botrychium dissectum</i>	Cutleaf Grape-fern
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted fern
<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern
<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	Intermediate shield fern
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Hay-scented fern
<i>Diplazium pycnocarpon</i>	Glade fern
<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	Ebony Spleenwort
<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>	Common polypody Fern
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridge Berry
<i>Epigaea repens</i>	Trailing Arbutus
<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>	Dutchman's Pipe
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	White Wood Aster
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking Stick
<i>Ilex montana</i>	Mountain Holly
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-hazel
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Wild Hydrangea
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber magnolia
<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	Umbrella magnolia
<i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	Mountain magnolia

All nomenclature follows Checklist of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia: Harmon, P.J.; Kartesz, J.T.; Jessee, C. M.; McDonald, B. R. And Sargent, B. D. 1995

NEWS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Highlights of the annual meeting

On September 26th, 2009 the annual meeting was held at Veterans' Memorial Park in Summersville WV.

- ❖ New Officers were elected and took office at that time.
- ❖ The fiscal report was received and the Society is in good fiscal condition.
- ❖ The Kanawha Valley chapter is inactive; the question of dues collection and remaining balance was discussed.
- ❖ The web site updating has had a few problems but they are in the process of being corrected.
- ❖ Ongoing projects were discussed including: new flier, Native Plant Landscaping Awards, and considering the landscaping of the state capitol complex.
- ❖ A twig and bud workshop was proposed and adopted for a winter meeting.

DUES NOTICE

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The dues for 2010 are now being received by treasurer Mae Ellen Wilson. Please send them to her at 1525 Hampton Road, Charleston WV 25314 as soon as possible, so that she does not have to make multiple trips to the bank to deposit them. If you postponed paying your 2009 dues she will also accept them, gratefully.

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Welcome to new members

Cynthia Sandero of Elkins, WV
Joann and Ronald Cordell, MD of Charleston WV
Loree Speedy of West Newton Pa.

2010 DUES

Regular membership-----	\$12
Student Membership-----	\$8
Life membership-----	\$20
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. For membership information contact gibbins@verizon.net

Send dues to:

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WVNPS Treasurer
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Charleston, WV 25314

WV Native Plant Society
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Huntington WV 25705

WWW.WVNPS.ORG



TRIFOLIUM VIRGINICUM
Kate's Mountain Clover