

NATIVE



NOTES

Kate's Mountain Clover*

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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*Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Native Plant Society
 September 24th and 25th 2011
 Elkins West Virginia*

AGENDA

Saturday September 24

10 AM meet at Forest Service office for a trip to **Blister Run Botanical Area**

2 PM continue with **Blister Run** or

meet at the **National Radio Astronomy Science Center** for tour of area and native seed collecting information

5:30 **Annual Meeting** at Forest Service Office followed by picnic, reservations required

Sunday September 25

9:30 AM meet at the Forest Service Office for a trip to **Gaudineer Scenic Area**

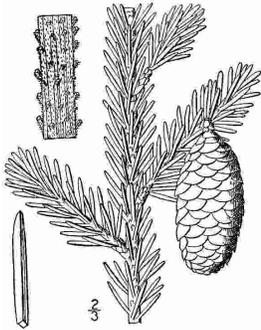
Directions to Forest Service office. From I-79 go east on US-33E/US-119N (about 37.4 miles). Turn right onto US-33/US-250/US-219 and travel 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Randolph Avenue/US-33/US-250/US-219. Take a left onto Sycamore Street (there is an iron statue of a man on a horse). You will travel about 0.03 miles on Sycamore Street passing the Elkins City Park. The Monongahela Supervisor's Office is a red brick building. Please go around the back of the building to the parking lot and back door.

For information or questions email or call Cynthia Sandeno (304-636-1800 ext. 194).

Details will be found on page 2

The WVNPS Annual Meeting- Plants, Birds, and Telescopes

This year's annual meeting will be held in Elkins, West Virginia on September 24th and 25th and will feature three exciting hikes. The first hike, led by U.S. Forest Service Ecologist, Kent Karkiker, will be a 2 1/2 hour hike around **Blister Run Botanical Area/National Natural Landmark**. This 260-acre tract contains an approximately 150-acre mature, balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) swamp. The swamp represents the southernmost natural extension of balsam fir in the country. The site provides habitat for several uncommon and rare plant species, and bird and animal life is abundant. Blister Run is subject to cold air drainage/accumulation which, combined with its elevation, favors a substantial number of boreal plants in addition to Balsam Fir. One of these species, Canada Yew (*Taxus canadensis*), has been greatly reduced by deer browsing. Altogether, Blister Run Swamp is an interesting area for botanists, ornithologists and other naturalists, both amateur and professional. To join this special hike, please meet at the Forest Service Office in Elkins (200 Sycamore Street) at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to bring a lunch, plenty of water, sturdy boots, and binoculars!



Red Spruce

The second hike will occur Saturday afternoon at the **National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO)** in Greenbank, WV. Folks can either continue on from the Blister Run hike or meet the group at the visitor parking area in front of the Science Center at approximately 2:00 p.m. The NRAO is a unique resource for Radio Astronomy and is home to the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope, the largest fully steerable dish in the world. Scientists from around the world use the Green Bank Telescope to study virtually all types of astronomical objects known, from planets and comets in our own Solar System to quasars and galaxies billions of light-years away. Todd Kuntz, Biological Technician with the Monongahela National Forest, will give a talk about native seed collection and lead a 2 hour hike around the property.

The group will arrive back in Elkins around 5:30 – just in time for the WVNPS annual meeting which will be held at the Forest Service Office. A cook-out will be held following the meeting. All food will be provided for a \$5 donation per person. Please RSVP to cmsandeno@fs.fed.us if you plan to attend the cookout.

The final hike will occur Sunday morning and will include a stop at **Glade Run** followed by a trip to **Gaudineer Scenic Area**. Glade Run is a 60 acre headwater wetland that includes rare plants such as long stalked holly (*Ilex collina*) and glaucous willow (*Salix discolor*). Glade Run is part of an outstanding botanical area that includes Shavers Fork with its community of rare and disjunct species and one of the few surviving stands of old growth forest at the nearby Gaudineer Scenic Area. Although it is estimated that West Virginia once had nearly 500,000 acres of high elevation virgin red spruce forests, only a few small stands remain today. The 50 acres of virgin red spruce at Gaudineer Scenic Area is perhaps the best such stand remaining in the State. This area was registered by the Society of American Foresters as an outstanding example of a vegetative community in a near natural condition dedicated for scientific and educational purposes. The hike will be lead by a great botanist, Elizabeth Byers, from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. To join this hike, meet up at the Forest Service Office at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 25th.

There are several places to stay in Elkins including the Holiday Inn at 50 Martin Street (304-630-2266), Elkins Motor Lodge at 830 Harrison Avenue (1-877-747-8713), Hampton Inn at 673 Glenmore Loop Road (304- 630-7500), or Day's Inn at 1200 Harrison Avenue (304-637-4667). Camping is also available at Stuart Recreation Area just 6 miles NE of Elkins at the junction of WV Route 6 and Forest Road 91. Each campsite has a parking spur, table, fire ring, tent pad, lantern holder, and electric hookup. All campsites are suitable for both tent and trailer camping and can accommodate a 53-foot tow/vehicle combination. A shower facility is also available.

Don't miss out on these exciting hikes or the chance to see such diverse habitats !

SEARCH AND SAVE, OR DESTROY, TAKE YOUR PICK

Ailanthus Wilt

The nearby states of Pennsylvania and Virginia have been found to have a wilt that is rapidly killing populations of *Ailanthus*, the stink tree. So far there are no known populations in West Virginia. Why is this important? Because APHIS, the federal agency which oversees the movements of plants and animals, particularly diseased ones and disease organisms, will not permit the wilt to be moved between states, only within states where the organism has been found naturally. West Virginia can not import this pathogen from sources in Pennsylvania or Virginia, even from bordering counties, unless populations are found within West Virginia.



Figure 3 Ailanthus

This is where the members of the West Virginia Native Plant Society could help. If you are out in the woods and see patches of *Ailanthus* which are dying you may have found the critical infestation. There are two *Verticillium* species that infect: *V. dahliae* is probably in WV but it is far less deadly than *V. albo-atrum* the one that is killing the trees in Pennsylvania. Susceptibility to *V. albo-atrum* in other native trees testing is going on in Pennsylvania and so far of the 80+ species tested the only two that are somewhat susceptible are mountain maple and Hercules club. This may indicate that they have been the traditional hosts of the wilt and are somewhat adapted to its damage. It also means that areas with mountain maple and Hercules club are the most likely to have infected populations.

So what do you look for? Severe wilting, even when there is ample water present. Remember that *Ailanthus* trees are often connected by roots so that you will probably see an infected grove of trees. The patches will expand as the wilt spreads. Crown die off and bark flaking may be present.

A bright orange discoloration of the vascular tissue under the bark is diagnostic. To see this you have to hold your nose

and take a knife to the bark looking for the strong orange color.

Ambrosia beetles, *Euwallacea validus* may be a vector in the transmission of the fungus so if you see the beetle and can collect the beetles do. Another insect that may be present is the *Ailanthus* webworm which feeds on the leaves, it may damage populations but seldom to the extent that the wilt does.

If you find specimens contact Joanne Rebbeck at the USFS Northern Research Station, 359 Main Rd. Delaware Ohio 43015 jrebbeck@fs.fed.us 740 368 0054 for instructions on collecting material and data. The material to be collected needs to be fresh so it is important to get instructions prior to collection so that it gets to the right place at the right time. If you cannot get back to the location send the location data and probably someone will check it out. Again speed is important in reporting the suspected population. ❖

And there is more to do

A request for ox eye daisy seed heads to study the role of ploidy on invasiveness has been made by a research group in Switzerland. Minnesota is coordinating the seed collection so that one shipment can be made in accordance with international protocols on invasive plants.

For information contact anthony.cortilet@state.mn.us Or look at http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weed_control ❖

Praise for West Virginia

Many of you sent butternut nuts to Dr. Woeste at Purdue for the continuing attempt to maintain a population of this species which is threatened by the butternut canker.

The status of this project can now be followed at <http://www/agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/HTIRC/woeste.html>. If you look at the map for some of the seed sources you will find that WV is the home, not only of butternuts, but of the densest aggregation of butternut seed collectors. ❖

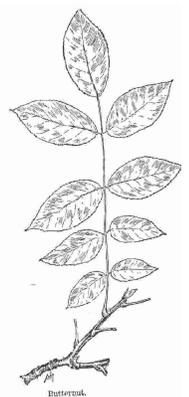
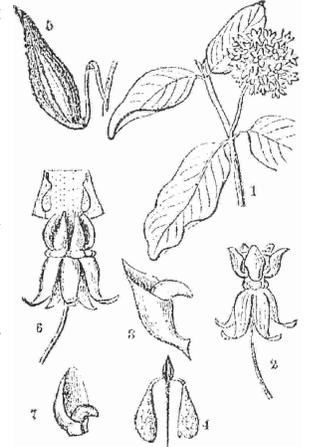


Figure 4
Butternut

Good job

The genus *Asclepias* in West Virginia

The milkweeds of West Virginia are a very conservative groups, none of them are non native and most of them have retained their names for over 100 years, although the endings may have changed. Wood's 1864 *Class Book of Botany*, from which the illustration of floral parts is taken, does place *A. Viridiflora* into the genus *Acerates* but other than that you would have no trouble recognizing the names or the plants. *A. syriaca* is called *A. Cornuti*; *A. Hirtella* is missing and there are no subspecies for *A. tuberosa* but these differences are relatively minor compared to the changes in other genera. The big change is that you will now find the genus in the Apocynaceae within the sub family Asclepiadoideae. This change is the result of both morphological and molecular studies. Some species of milkweed is found in every county in West Virginia so no one will miss the opportunity to see these plants of distinction. They can be found in many native plant nurseries because they are the host for the larvae of many butterflies, including the monarchs, who are able to ingest the toxins present in the plant which then become a chemical defense.



PERIPLOCLE. Filaments distinct. F

Figure 5 Floral Parts

Figure 1. 1. Leaf and flower head *A. Syriaca* 2. Flower, the petals and sepals are reflexed and the corona is erect. 3. one of the segments of the corona with horn bent inwardly. 4. A pair of pollen masses suspended from the glands 5. A mature follicle (seed pod) 6. Vertical section showing 2 ovaries (stylized) 7. Lobe and horn of the corona.

Asclepias amplexicaulis,

Clasping milkweed

Look for this milkweed in dry, sandy places or very open xeric woodlands. Clasping does describe the 2-5 broad, wavy oval leaves which are tightly arranged in sessile or subsessile pairs around the stem. The inflorescence is solitary and terminal with pink to tan hoods and cream to greenish purple flowers. Bloom time June-July

Wayne and Hardy counties have current populations and historic occurrences are in Fayette, Hampshire and Wood counties.



Asclepias hirtella

Green Milkweed, Prairie Milkweed

Current record from Summers County and historic records from Marion and 5 western counties. Found in mesic to damp roadsides and fields distinguished by alternate linear, roughly hairy leaves with very pointed tips. The flowers are green or greenish in umbels in the leaf axils. The follicle is densely hairy.

This is generally considered to be a prairie species. In West Virginia it is considered threatened and in need of additional study. June-September.

Asclepias exaltata

Poke Milkweed

This woodland species is known from 12 current and 18 historic occurrences in West Virginia. Exaltata means tall, the usual single stem may be 8-15 dm tall. The leaves are variable from narrowly elliptic to broadly ovate, tapered at both ends with distinct petioles. The inflorescences are lax the 15-25 flowers in each umbel may even be drooping. The flowers are white or with tinges of a dull purple. June-August



Asclepias incarnata ssp pulchra

Swamp Milkweed

Probably one of the most common species in WV it is represented by only 6 current and 31 older records. This plant is found in wet moist sites. With abundant lanceolate pointed opposite leaves and umbels with abundant pink to rose flowers it has been used for native gardens with moist conditions. July-August.



Unless otherwise indicated illustrations are from:
Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 1: 526. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Scanned by Omnitich Inc.

Asclepias purpurascens

Purple Milkweed

You may find this milkweed scattered on roadsides, old fields, and other dry sites. Usually the population will not be large. The leaves are oval, opposite with a petiole, and finely hairy underneath. The umbels are usually terminal and solitary with abundant purple flowers on peduncles up to two inches long. There are 10 current and 14 old records. June-August.



image USDA_NRCS Plants/Database?USDA?NRCS Wetland Flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Asclepias quadrifolia

Four-leaved Milkweed

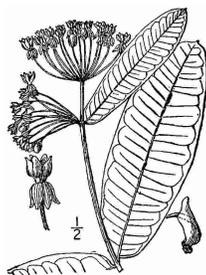
This milkweed is distinctive and common, being known from 12 current and 25 older records scattered throughout West Virginia. The small size and the four leaves at each whorl on the stem with a terminal inflorescence of white to light pink flowers and the early blooming season of May-July serve to distinguish this attractive species. It will be found in woodlands, openings and borders and in discriminating native plant gardens.



Asclepias syriaca

Common Milkweed

This strong, common plant is known from 12 current county records and 31 older ones. It is the milkweed that people usually think of. Strong with opposite oval to oblong leaves and axillary lavender to greenish purple umbels scattered along the stem it grows in fields and along road and rail rights of way, and other disturbed spots. June-August.



Asclepias tuberosa ssp interior & ssp tuberosa

Butterfly Weed.

This is the familiar orange milkweed of dry fields and open spaces throughout West Virginia. The two varieties are separated by the location of the widest part of the leaves, in *ssp interior* it is widest below the middle while in *ssp tuberosa* it is widest above the middle. *Spp interior* is found in 3 current and 15 old counties and *spp tuberosa* has 8 current and 31 old records. This is a milkweed that does not exude milky juice if cut. June-August



Asclepias variegata

White Milkweed

The flowers of this milkweed are indeed white, occasionally with a pinkish tinge. The plant has opposite thick, ovate or oblong leaves in several pairs. The inflorescences are few in number, 1-4, but densely packed with flowers. It is generally found in dry locations such as fields and thickets. In West Virginia there are two current records from Preston and Morgan counties and 16 older specimens. May-June.



Asclepias verticillata

Whorled Milkweed

From a slender stem issue many very narrow revolute leaves in whorls of 3-6 leaves clustered tightly all the way up the stem. The umbels are on 1-3 cm long peduncles clustered in the upper leaf nodes each umbel containing an open cluster of greenish white flowers. It prefers dry locations such as roadsides, prairies, dry woods or fields. In West Virginia there are current records from Grant Monroe and Greenbrier Counties and 8 older records. July-September.



Asclepias viridiflora

Green Flowered Milkweed

This is an extremely variable species, the thick leaves have been variously described as linear, lanceolate, elliptic or ovate-oblong. The densely flowered lateral umbels are sessile or on peduncles up to 2 cm long. The pale green flowers are 9-13 mm long. It has primarily been found in the Eastern Panhandle with 3 current and 4 old occurrences. The current records show quite a spread, Jefferson, Grant and Wayne Counties. Ohio and Ky do show it in counties adjacent to Wayne so that is not too odd. Usually it is found in dry sandy or rocky soils often in areas considered to be prairies. June-September.



Asclepias viridis

Green Milkweed, Antelope Horn

This species is considered to be threatened in West Virginia having only 2 current counties of record Wayne and Jackson, as well as an older record from Wirt. It has variable leaves alternate or opposite, lanceolate or oblong with an acute base narrowing into a 4-10 mm petiole. The greenish corolla with a purplish crown is quite large for a milkweed 2-3.5 cm wide. A plant of prairies, barrens and dry fields concentrated west of West Virginia. May-June. ♣



Editor's Comment not reviewed by board or membership

All of the trips described below involve governmental lands The New river Gorge with the National Park Service, East Lynn and Green Bottom swamp owned by the Corps of Engineers and managed by the WV Wildlife Division of the DNR (at least the portions visited), Mill Creek owned and managed by the WV Wildlife Division, Beech Fork owned by the Corps of Engineers and managed by West Virginia State Parks, the US Forest Service and National Radio Astronomy are hosting the annual meeting , the Tri State Chapter's planned visit Crooked Creek is to a site owned and managed by the KY Nature Preserves Commission. In these times of fiscal constraints and emotional upheaval it is important that we remember to express our appreciation and support for the mission of these agencies and for the dedicated staff that continue to provide professional management.♣

Glade Creek Field Trip, April 16, 2011

Judi White reporter

On Saturday April 16 met at the Glade Creek trail parking area. Nine members of the WVNPS, attired in colorful rainsuits and ponchos were led by Chris Gatens and National Park Ranger Richard Altare along the former railroad line trail. Many wildflowers and some less common trees and shrubs were seen. Among them were:

Toad trillium, Wild geranium, Bishop's cap, Jack in the pulpit, Canada violet, Hydrophyllum macrophyllum, Wild ginger, Basswood (just leafing out, red bud scales, Bloodroot, Wineberry, Giant Solomon's seal, Squirrel corn, Dutchmen's breeches, Bellwort, Dwarf larkspur, Wild phlox, Two-leaved toothwort, Wake robin, Large flowered trillium, Foamflower, Meehania, Solomon's seal, Putty root leaves, Golden Alexander, Wild peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum*), Baneberry, Scouring rush (some with bloom structure), Sweet cicely, Brittle fern, Mandarin (Hairy disporum), Buffalo oil nut (parasitic on broadleaf trees), Gall of the earth, Windflower (Dwarf anemone), Sweet white violet, Striped maple, Wild hydrangea, Shining club moss, Partridge berry, Long spurred violet, Harbinger of spring, Wood anemone, Rue anemone, Stonecrop, Stinging nettle, Morels, Cleavers, Rattlesnake fern, Virginia spring beauty, Lady's thumb, Rock cress, Star chickweed, Beech buds (orange scales), Crane fly orchid leaf, Black birch, Early monarda, Lyre leaved sage (dried flower stalk from last year), Jewelweed, Carolina spring beauty, Early meadow rue, Hemlock trees with a white dot (treated for hemlock woolly adelgid in 2010) and a red dot (2009 treatment) were noted.

A couple of members went a little further and saw:

Turk's cap lily (not in bloom yet), Wood betony, Ramps

Along Glade Creek road were:

Carolina silverbell, Red elderberry, Virginia bluebells

No garlic mustard was seen. There was quite a bit of wineberry though. This is a very nice trail and worth returning to next spring if not sooner.♣

Garlic Mustard Challenge

Cynthia Sandeno

After weeks of searching, pulling, and bagging, the third annual "Garlic Mustard Challenge" closed, and the results are absolutely stunning! Together, we greatly surpassed our goal of pulling 20,000 pounds of garlic mustard. Are you ready for the results? Here goes.....

68,433 pounds of garlic mustard were pulled and reported from across Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia! We had two new states participate this year!

Volunteer hours from West Virginia and Virginia pulls provided \$8,727 of in-kind contributions that were used as match for grants!

Funding from grants was used to provide weed identification workshops to local landowners and to treat invasive species in West Virginia!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the challenge. Whether you were pulling in your own back yard, telling your neighbor about the plant, teaching in classrooms or in the woods, leading events or spreading the word about workdays, THANK YOU! All of the work you did this spring was extremely important and will have long lasting effects on our natural areas for many years to come!♣

Tri State Chapter Trips

Due to space limitations reports from the Tri-State Chapter will be included in the next Native Notes. Highlights included the largest WV populations of Virginia Mallow, *Sida hermaphrodita*, and river cane *Arundo donax* at Green Bottom Swamp and American Chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, at two locations in East Lynn State Park and Wildlife Management Area. ♣

News of the West Virginia Native Plant Society

Highlights of the Spring Board Meeting

- The 16 April 2011 board meeting followed an Enjoyable hike by 10 individuals in the New River Gorge.
- Discussion concerned outreach to the public with either a power point or interactive cd.
- The web site is in need of updating and refreshing, suggestions included additional photographs and links.
- The Tri-State Chapter reported 2 successful field trips with three more scheduled.
- WVNPS position on using native plants for reclamation, particularly in reference to the DEP reclamation manual.
- Life members are now 20. Current dues collection is ongoing.

Welcome to New Members

Chris Bradley, Mt. Storm WV
David and Barbara Hanna, Elkins WV
Phyllis James, Ivydale WV
Marilyn McClure, Lavalette WV
Nancy Zapoteck, Shepherdstown WV

Editor's Note

This issue has been sent in an envelope instead of the previous folded copy. The intent is to reduce the wear and tears that had began to be evident in the last few issues. As a result the dues form has been placed where the mailing address had been. The cost of mailing in the envelope is comparable to the folded method. If you wish to comment on the change please contact the editor. ❀

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