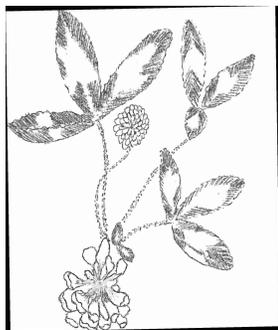


NATIVE



Kate's Mountain Clover*

NOTES

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WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19:3

WINTER 2011-2012

Judy Dumke-Editor: E-mail-dumke@live.marshall.edu

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Lichen and Moss Workshop *Saturday March 3rd* *WVU Morgantown, WV*

Dr. Sue Studlar of West Virginia University (botany) will host a workshop on bryophytes and lichens that will start with a display of lichens and mosses in the botany lab. The display will include *Sphagnum* cultures from ongoing experiments by her students illustrating simple techniques for culturing these intriguing plants in salsa jars!. This demonstration and display will be followed by a hands on workshop, focusing on bryophyte and lichen diversity. After all this mind stretching it will be time for lunch and conversation before going outside to look at the lichens and mosses in their native habitat in the WV Botanical Garden. Don Flenniken found 41 species of lichens in this garden, which also features robust mosses, including *Sphagnum*.

Schedule: 10-11 Open House and specimen viewing
 11-12:30 Workshop
 12:30-1:30 Lunch (eat on campus or brown bag)
 1:30-4:00 Visit the Botanical Garden

Directions: From I-79 exit 155 (Star City) FOLLOW SIGNS FOR WVU (for those with GPS navigators, the address is 53 Campus Drive, Morgantown WV 26506

Shortly after the turn from the exit ramp there is an entrance to the University Town Center shopping mall. Continue straight through their signal toward the Sheetz/MacDonald's plaza. Turn/bear right at that signal onto Rt. 19 (Monongahela Blvd.). Follow it south, crossing the Star City Bridge and up the hill to the WVU basketball coliseum (on your right at the Patteson Dr. intersection). Continue straight on Rt. 19 (now called Beechurst Ave.), which has center road dividers (both lanes go through) at the Evansdale campus entrance (Core Arboretum is on the right). Go down a long hill (elevated train on right) and through the signal at the small Seneca Center Mall (on your right). The streets you pass on the left are named in decreasing numerical sequence from Eighth to Third. At the next signal, turn left onto Campus Dr. (up a steep hill) and right at the first driveway into lot 10. The large red brick and green copper building is Life Sciences (LSB). Park here (or in the lower lot 8, if full), and enter LSB through the loading dock door (basement level). The herbarium is down the hall (turn right at the end of the corridor) next to the elevators. Dr. Ford's office is adjacent in room B2, as well as upstairs in LSB 5230 (by the bryophyte herbarium).

For questions or information e-mail or call Dr. Donna Ford 304-293-5201 ext 31549 dford2@wvu.edu Or Dr. Susan Studlar at 304-293-5201 ext. 31548 sstudlar@wvu.edu ❀

* DRAWN BY Betsy Trammel after photographs by Charles Garrett, Warm Springs Va.

WVNP&S COMING EVENTS

April 7th A visit to Cotton Hill, WV.

Directions: meet at 10 AM at the junction of US highway 60 and WV 16, called Chimney Corner, located near Hawks Nest State Park. The group will convene at the Country Store at 10 A.M.. The Country Store has two buildings, the larger of the two has a large parking lot, there are no other structures at Chimney Corner so it is easy to find.

The Cotton Hill area offers a rich riparian habitat in a flood plain of the lower New River Gorge. Many of the plant species in the area have migrated from the river's origin in the south. Rocky, sandstone outcroppings also provide dry upland habitats for unusual plant communities. Remember to bring water, a lunch and sun screen as well as good walking footwear.

Following the field experience a board meeting will be held. All are welcome to attend.

May 10-13 Remember the Wildflower Pilgrimage at Blackwater Falls State Park.

June 23 Parkersburg Library native plant garden, Edison School Arboretum and McDonough Refuge sites. Board meeting will follow.

August 12 Putnam County Doug Wood will lead a visit to the Buffalo wetland complex, home to several state tracked species, a pink St. Johnswort and a rare sedge. We will also visit a recently discovered blue ash population. ❖



Blue Ash

For updates check our web site <http://www.wvnps.org>

Tri State Chapter annual Meeting

February 16th 7:00 P.M. Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. Come to help set the field trip agenda for 2012. All suggestions as to locations and/or projects are welcome. Contact Helen Gibbins 304-736-3287 for directions and information.❖

INVITATIONS

If the March workshop has whetted your appetite for more moss and lichen knowledge and activities the Ohio Moss and Lichen Association extends this welcome:

INTERESTED IN LICHENS AND MOSSES? Want to learn more? Come to one of the Forays or Workshops of the Ohio Moss and Lichen Association. We typically have two Forays per year – a one-day Summer Foray and a Two-day Fall Foray; and one Workshop dealing with the identification of mosses or lichens. Visit our website: www.ohiomosslichen.org for general information, newsletters and dates for upcoming events. Or better yet, join the OMLA (see website for details) and get e-mail notices when events are scheduled. Ray Showman ❖

Unless other wise noted 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. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

If your desire is to attend an inexpensive native plant gardening forum (\$25, which includes lunch) consider attending the offering by Ohio State Extension in nearby Ohio.

April 5 Spring Botanical Conference in Pomeroy, Ohio

Frank Porter and Hal Kneen have done it again. This year's topic is *Restoring America, One Plant at a Time*. Five speakers have been scheduled on a variety of subjects, including Creating a Native Garden , Native Plants as Alternative to Invasive Species and introducing Youth to Gardening. Tom Barnes is the Keynote speaker. To learn more contact Hal Kneen at kneen.1@cfaes.osu.edu.

Registration is now open and if the past is any indication the limited slots will be filled rapidly. ❖

And a Partridge in a Pear Tree

Barry Glick

Forgive me for borrowing a line from that little diddy that some wily Jesuit priests penned in the 16th century, but I couldn't think of a more clever way to headline this article and introduce you to *Mitchella repens*, aka "Partridge Berry." Yes, your Christmas decorations may be down and stored away by now (at least, I hope so), but we can carry the spirit of generosity and giving in our gardens all year long.

Mitchella repens has opposite, evergreen, glossy, oval to heart-shaped leaves, ½-inch across, with parallel veining in the midrib and carpets the ground with its 12-18" vines. The bright red berries are edible, but nowhere near as tasty as *Gaultheria procumbens* (Teaberry), and persist all winter unless the partridges, grouse, fox, or other wildlife discover them. Native to 35 of the United States and 3 of the provinces of Canada which are east of the Mississippi according to the USDA plant database, this extremely useful groundcover is rarely seen in the trade. I fail to see why, as it's very easy to propagate by rooting cuttings or from seed. In fact, it forms adventitious roots as it gently winds its way around the garden. It could never, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered aggressive or invasive.

And guess what else! When I just happened to have a pot at eye level I discovered that the pink to pure white, tubular flowers that occur in pairs from June to July are really very fragrant. The illustration shows the flowers quite well. As I said, the flowers occur in pairs and after fertilization, the two flower ovaries fuse together, giving rise to a single red fruit. The two dimples on the fruit reveal its fused nature.



Mitchella repens
Betsy Trammell

As strange as it may seem, the genus *Mitchella* is in the Rubiaceae (Madder) family, the same family as Coffee arabica. Yes, that's the same coffee we get at Starbucks and Panera! Native American women often drank a tea made from the leaves of this plant as an aid in childbirth.

I use *Mitchella repens* as a native alternative to that nasty *Vinca*, aka periwinkle, that I've been trying to rid myself of for over 30 years.

It seems to tolerate dry soils although in its natural habitats, it's usually found in rich, moist, acidic woods. I can't say that *Mitchella repens* is completely deer-proof, however, it does seem that Bambi is more fond of the berries than the foliage, and frequently seems to beat the birds to the bounty, while not intentionally disturbing the plant.❖

After admiring partridge berry on our fall meeting field trips the West Virginia Native Plant Society is fortunate to have two members able and willing to contribute to our knowledge of this plant.❖

Barry Glick, lives on 60 acres located on a mountaintop in Greenbrier County, WV, where he owns and manages Sunshine Farm & Gardens (www.sunfarm.com), a mail-order plant nursery (which stocks *Mitchella*). Barry specializes in native plants and hellebores. He can be reached at (304)497-2208 or barry@sunfarm.com. He even welcomes visitors.❖

Betsy Trammell lives in Charleston West Virginia where she participates in outreach educational activities with residents. You may see her articles in *Wonderful West Virginia*. Her drawings have been seen in earlier Native Notes and on the back cover of the *Flora of Kanawha State Forest*.❖

You, too, can help our knowledge of this plant become current, the *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia* only lists 11 counties with current vouchers as well as 32 counties with old records, 12 counties have no records. ❖

The apples of West Virginians' Eyes

Let us begin by noting that apples may be found in either the genus *Malus* or *Pyrus*; the debate goes on. Much of the difference depends upon the nature of the fruit. Following the usage in the WV Atlas for this discussion we will use *Malus* as the genus name.

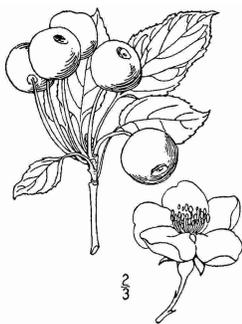
West Virginia is currently endowed with six *Malus* species, three of which are exotics, and commercially quite important in horticulture or orchards, two of which are native and one of which has crept in from further west.

Malus angustifolia, the southern crab apple, is known from 3 counties currently, all in the mountains, as well as five older records. In West Virginia it is very close to the northern edge of its range.

It might be considered a tree, or even a shrub, as it is rather small and undistinguished reaching a height of 20-30 feet with a short trunk only 8 to 10 inches in diameter. The thorny twigs can make them seem a bit unpleasant to have in a pasture or open woods. The leaves are ovate to occasionally elliptical 1-3 inches long and ½ to 2 inches wide, dull



green above and lighter below. The petioles are short and stout. The flowers are quite fragrant, about an inch wide with five pink petals. The fruit is a green pome about an inch in diameter, while small it has occasionally been used for preserves. It is reported to be a favorite food of small game.



Malus baccata, the Siberian Crabapple, is clearly an exotic, primarily found in Manchuria. It is known from three counties, Harrison, Taylor and Morgan in West Virginia. It is a small tree reaching to 16 feet in height. The leaves are ovate, shiny above, glabrous about 1-3 inches long. The flowers are white,

the fruit yellow with a red blush (some varieties may be red). Habitat yards and nurseries.

M. Angustifolia illustration from 1924 field notes US Forest Service collection Hunt Botanical Library

M. Pumila illustration Dover Clip Art.

Others Britton and Brown see previous credit

Malus coronaria, sweet crabapple, is our most common native apple being found in 20 counties currently, with an additional 15

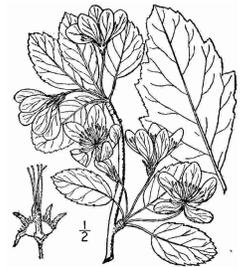


historic records. A short bushy tree which can reach up to 30 feet with a trunk up to 14 inches in diameter it is often used as an ornamental, not least because of the fragrant flowers it produces in the late spring. The leaves are ovate to almost ovate triangular, smooth in maturity although there may be hairs present in young leaves. The flowers are white to pink 1-3 inches in diameter and very fragrant. The fruit is a 1-3 inch green,

yellow or red pome which can be used for jellies or historically for hard cider. It is a favorite food of deer and larger birds.

Malus floribunda, Japanese Flowering Crab, has been found in 5 counties, all recent records in the northern part of the state. A shrub or tree that can reach 25 feet it is distinguished by many buds that are a very deep red opening to a pleasant rose shade which may fade with maturity. The yellow fruit is slightly over ¼ inch in diameter. From Japan where it is intensely cultivated.

Malus ioensis var. ioensis, the prairie crabapple, is known from only 2 old records; one in Kanawha county and the other in Marshall County. This is another apple at the edge of its range, this time the eastern edge. It is distinguished by its very hairy new growth in the spring. In the wild it is found in prairies, open woodlands, pastures and bottom lands. In cultivation it may be identified as Bechtels crabapple, a double flowered form. The leaves are elliptical, coarsely toothed and even may be lobed. The flowers are white to pink with a very hairy calyx the yellow-green fruit is about an inch in diameter.



Malus pumila, the common apple is the apple of our youth and our grocery stores. Surprisingly, it is currently known from only 18 counties and 7 older records. With the abundance of old orchards in West Virginia, it should be easy to find this tree in all counties. Originally from Eurasia over 3,000 varieties are known and cultivated. Given the large variability that comes with cultivation no description is needed or possible. In contrast to our native crab apples it is never thorny and the fruits are larger. ❖



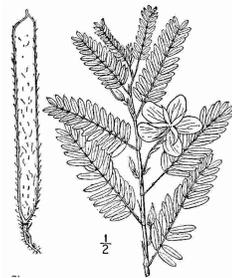
Report from the field Lawrence T. Beckerle

The WV Invasive Species Working Group meets twice a year, usually in Flatwoods, West Virginia. The meetings are organized by the WV Dept. of Agriculture Sherrie Hutchison is the current leader of the Group. I attend these meetings to provide input and to learn from the discussions that occur during both meetings and the breaks during the day.

Patricia Morrison works at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. She is in charge of eradicating, or at least reducing, highly invasive plants that threaten the purpose of the refuge. Her program for getting rid of Japanese Knotweed includes: cutting Japanese Knotweed in June, spraying it in August with Glyphosphate and then planting the treated area with shrubs. She uses spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). She reported that Japanese Knotweed does not grow under pawpaw. It will come back under spicebush. This suggests to me that pawpaw produces allelopathic chemicals that are effective against Japanese Knotweed.

I have long been an advocate for using the reseeding annual called partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) for quick cover on disturbed sites.

Unlike the *Cassia* genus in which it is sometimes included, the *Chamaecrista* genus forms nitrogen fixing nodules. It also has the virtue of producing highly nutritious seeds for birds and other wildlife. On logging roads and surface mines in the mountains partridge pea usually reaches heights of 18 inches to 3 feet. Patricia Morrison says that on Ohio River soils it usually gets to be 6 feet tall. That would be nice to see



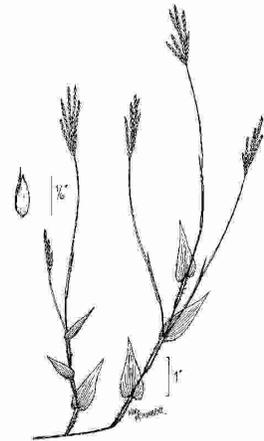
Note that in my experience partridge pea does not tolerate competition and in a few years loses out to other plants. It is very tolerant of poor soils. It persists far longer on highly compacted clay soils than on other soils. This was something of a surprise when I first started using partridge pea sometime in the last century, because the books refer to partridge pea as growing primarily on sandy soils in the South. The best time to plant partridge pea is in March. However I have planted it as late as August and it still made viable seed before winter.

In West Virginia there are current records for Partridge pea from two counties, Fayette and Randolph and older records from nine scattered locations.❖

Another not so nice grass

At the annual meeting in Elkins, Romie Hughart brought a grass that was appearing in ditches around his home, a plant that he had never before seen in such abundance. I (Judy Dumke) immediately recognized it as *Arthraxon hispidus*, commonly called jointed grass, hairy joint grass, jointhead or small carpet grass. I was familiar with it because there had been an outbreak where I live this year. The grass had been present in small numbers in the past but this year it completely covered the median for several miles of US 52 in Ohio, excluding all most all other vegetation. It was also present in mixed populations of *Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese stilt grass or Asiatic brown grass, along creek bottoms and other damp locations. This plant, banned in Connecticut and Massachusetts and already known to be a pest in Maryland and other eastern states,, has been expanding to the south and west and West Virginia seems to be ripe for an invasion of yet another grass of ill repute. With reports of 42 counties having records, it is likely that it will be found in all 55.

What does it look like? It is a slender, annual grass somewhat lax and rooting at the joints. Usually present in large mats, the individual stalks stretched out will reach about 15-20 inches, although some will be longer. The leaf blades are slightly less than an inch to 3 inches long and less than an inch wide. These are cordate, clasping at the base, which helps to distinguish it. The spikelets are few and digitate, think crab grass.



This is primarily a plant of moist or wet habitats and, as such, the unusually wet year may have led to the explosion of the population, unfortunately this also means that there was ample seed produced to continue the population.

If you see this plant and it is new to the area or more extensive than in the past please report it to Rosalie (Rosie) Santerre at the Potomac Highlands CWPMA at Rosalie.santerre@tnc.org It may not be in their region but they could take the report and connect you to the appropriate agency.❖

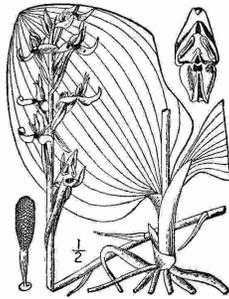
Illustration from: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database/USDA NRCS. *Wetland Flora: field office illustrated guide to plant species..* USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Annual meeting the field trip experiences

The WVNPS Annual Meeting- Plants, Birds, and Telescopes

Cynthia Sandeno

This year's annual meeting was a huge success and all hikes were well attended. Twenty-five people met at the Forest Service Office in Elkins to embark on hikes to Blister Run Botanical Area/National Natural Landmark and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO). Over one hundred plant species were recorded at these two sites including Round-Leaved Orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*), Mad-Dog Skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora* L. var. *lateriflora*), Crested Woodfern (*Dryopteris cristata*), and Bog Goldenrod (*Solidago uliginosa*). A special thanks to Jim Vanderhorst for diligently tracking our species list. Unfortunately, we also encountered a few non-native invasive species including Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). But, the invasive barberry was no match for our weed warrior, Judy Dumke, who quickly took care of the problem. Be sure to check out our trip pictures on the WVNPS website to see Judy holding her prize. Our comprehensive species list is also available online at <http://www.wvnps.org>.



Platanthera orbiculata

The weather held out beautifully until the afternoon. Light showers kept us company as we scouted the NRAO for native seed to help with restoration projects on the Monongahela National Forest. Together, the group collected sacks of witch hazel, swamp rose, milkweed, crabapple, and much more. Some of the seed was sent to the Alderson to be grown in containers. Additional seed will be directly sown in disturbed areas.

The final hike occurred on Sunday morning and was led by Elizabeth Byers, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. It was difficult to get a count of the number attending because the area, Gaudineer Scenic Area, is well known and the trails are frequently used by visitors. Thus as the group progressed from the parking lot others joined in to listen and learn. Which goes to

show that public area events can lead to additional exposure for the WVNPS. As a result of this exposure WVNPS gained two new members.

The remnant red spruce community is one of the finest remaining in the state. Seeing the stately trees in the light drizzle that greeted the group only validated the on going attempts to restore the red spruce in the higher elevations of West Virginia. We were fortunate to have Galena Fet with us on the trip to identify many of the fungi that are so common in the damp fall season. Many of the genera found were those also found in the new National Forest Service photographic guide to macrofungi of the eastern US. ❖

A Big Thank You to Lawrence and Judi and a welcome to Kevin

At the 2011 annual meeting an election of new officers was held. Lawrence Beckerle completed his term as president and became the immediate past president. Romie Hughart, former vice president, then became the president. Lawrence deserves praise for the guidance he provided during his term of office and Romie deserves all the help from the membership that he can get. Do thank Lawrence if you see him and if you see Romie volunteer to serve the organization.

Judi White completed her term on the board and will now have more time to pursue her gardening and study of West Virginia's native plants. Her inspiration and thoughtful opinions on the questions that the organization faced during her period of service contributed greatly to the functioning of the board. We wish to thank her for this service.

Kevin Campbell was elected to the board and will be assuming his duties as a board member, we wish him well and welcome him to this new responsibility. ❖

News of the West Virginia Native Plant Society

Highlights of the Annual Board Meeting

- The 24 September 2011 annual meeting was held at the Supervisor's office of the Mon National Forest, followed by a picnic catered by the secretary, Cynthia Sandeno, at her home. Field trip information is provided elsewhere.
- The WVNPS remains fiscally sound
- Membership is 61 paid members and 19 life members.
- The web site is in need of updating and refreshing; volunteers for this task are needed.
- Betsy Trammel is developing a native plant power point for distribution.
- Contributions were authorized to the WVU herbarium \$150, MU herbarium \$100, WV Wesleyan \$50.
- New officers elected will be found on the sidebar to the right.
- Native Notes, Tri-state Chapter and Potomac Highlands CWPMA reports were received.♣

Welcome to New Members

Kevin Cade, Hurricane, WV
David McGill Morgantown, WV
Sara and Herb Myers Harman, WV
Pete Rybert Montrose, WV

2012 DUES ARE DUE

It is a new year with all that implies; a workshop, fine field trips, a web site, and a newsletter. However, all of that requires one other item—money. On the last page of this newsletter you will find a form to renew your membership. Please renew promptly to save the treasurer trips to the bank. The chapter dues should be sent in with the renewal if you wish to identify with the Tri state chapter. ♣

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