

Native Notes



The West Virginia
Native Plant Society

Number 2 Volume 3

December 1994

It's Now Or Never!

Nominations are now being accepted for the WVNPS Board of Directors. Please take time to give some thought towards nominating someone you believe would be interested. If you have an interest in working with the board then, **by all means nominate yourself.** Nominations of anyone who has agreed to run, should be submitted to the nominations committee; send to Steve Mace, Mark Chaifield or Ken Anderson by February 1, 1995. Six positions are open. These positions include the president, vice president, treasurer, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and one Board of Directors-at-large. See the enclosed membership list for phone numbers and addresses of the above people.

A note on the corresponding secretary's position. This may be one of the most time consuming jobs on the Board. It requires maintaining the membership data base, keeping up with all the new memberships, up-dating the database, forwarding dues to the treasurer, and seeing that letters to the club are answered promptly. Terry Harmon has faithfully kept us organized, by fulfilling that capacity since "reconstruction." Terry has agreed to run one more time, but anyone who loves this kind of work is welcome to put their name in the hat.

Please check the enclosed membership list for the addresses of members of the nominations committee. We really need your participation and timely efforts on this one. **Thanks!**

WOULD YOU BUY THIS? NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION.

Frank Pelurie

A recent letter from a Virginia Native Plant Society member contained several very good ideas. One of the best ideas was a native plant seedling sale. Why not sponsor a similar sale at a WVNPS meeting? Heck, I'll always go to a meeting if there is going to be a plant sale. The next few paragraphs include some suggestions on how we might approach such an event. Other ideas and suggestions are welcome.

A WVNPS seedling sale should be restricted to seedlings of West Virginia native species. We could sell these seedlings at a spring/early summer meeting, and again at the annual meeting in September. All funds generated would go to the society to be used for other projects.

The Society would price the plants for sale in the \$0.50 - \$2.00 range, but may go higher or lower depending upon the quality of the seedling. We would require all seedlings to be labeled with Genus, and species. It is permissible to list a Genus with species labeled "species unknown" if you are unsure as to the correct species.

Another idea is a seed exchange. This can be either a fall meeting activity or a collection and distribution center operation using the mail. In the next column I'll discuss setting up the seed exchange.

Those of you who are interested in plant propagation, I would appreciate your comments

on any of the above or on any other aspect of plant propagation. I particularly would like to know who is going to attempt to raise seedlings for the first seedling sale. Also, if there is interest we could get together sometime in mid-February for a work shop on sowing seeds. Let me know who would like to participate in such a workshop/discussion group. We will at least sow some Rhododendron seed, including azaleas. Write to me at; Frank Pelurie, 250 Dutch Ridge Road, Clendenin, WV 25045 or in the evenings you can call me at 968-3793.

NEW HERBARIUM SPECIALIST AT WVU

John Weems

Donna Ford, currently on the faculty of Northeast Missouri State University, will take charge of the West Virginia University Herbarium as of January 1, 1995. Donna is a botanist with considerable herbarium experience, including running the herbarium at Northeast Missouri State University for four years.

Donna will be taking on the challenge of curating and modernizing the much larger herbarium at WVU. She will also teach Plant Systematics. WVU has not offered Plant Systematics since the retirement of Roy Clarkson, and the Herbarium has not had a full-time curator since the departure of Linda Radar.

After election to numerous honorary societies during her undergraduate days at Miami University (Oxford, OH), Donna earned her M.S. from the University of Michigan in 1985, then enrolled in a Washington University/Missouri Botanical Garden Ph.D. program. Her dissertation project (with Peter Raven) concerned the systematics and evolution of *Montiopsis* subgenus *Montiopsis*, a topic that required three seasons of field work in South America. Donna earned her Ph.D. in 1992.

WVNPS members might be interested to note that Donna has been active with the Missouri Native Plant Society since moving to the "show me state" in 1986. Her coming to WVU to fill the key position of Herbarium Specialist is sure

to be a plus for botany in the mountain state. Welcome to West Virginia, Donna!

AN ALIEN NATIVE?

An article included in the most recent issue of *Chinquapin*, the newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, has raised some critical questions about the meaning of "alien vegetation." Stanwyn G. Shetler made the following statement in his article "Alien Native.....", "Every plant sowed or transplanted is an alien or exotic, whether or not it is a native species of the region." He states that every time we transplant or sow a seed, we are acting against the natural processes of plant migration and establishment. His primary argument is that we can never achieve a natural landscape through planting.

His argument seems very logical and worthy of some exploration. However, it may seem a little moot, considering how much humanity has already altered and continues to alter the natural patterns of vegetation on this continent. I have always tended to think that prolifically transplanting, and sowing the seeds of a great diversity of our natural vegetation may be our only hope of preserving many species. Would like to get some feedback and/or discussion on this topic in the next issue of the newsletter.

NATIVE SHRUBS FACT SHEETS NOW AVAILABLE!

At long last an ambitious project initiated by WVNPS Members nearly ten years ago has come to fruition. As a result of a Nongame Wildlife grant, we have been able to print one hundred and fifty sets of thirty two fact sheets on native shrubs used as food and cover by wildlife. Most of these plants are suitable for plantings in yards and gardens. Some are available through commercial nurseries, while others may be transplanted from woodlands, roadsides and grown from seeds.

Eight members of the Society compiled fifty-nine fact sheets. The contributors include Brian McDonald, Kathy Gregg, Joe Glencoe, Bob Deal, Bill Grafton, Linnie Coon, Holly Dryer-Creasy, and Emily Grafton. It was decided that the best use of the funds at this time, was to print information on the thirty-two species most highly valued for wildlife plantings.

The shrub fact sheets include the following information about each species: natural habitat, native range, wildlife uses, identification of twigs, bark, leaves, fruits and horticultural uses.

We owe a special gratitude to three Society members for working hard to prepare the sheets for publication. Thank you John Northeimer for many hours of compiling and editing; thank you Bill Grafton for hours of editing, and thank you Frank Pelurie for so patiently scanning in all the graphics. Kudos to you three! We also wish to express our gratitude to Tom's Printing of Davis, WV, for printing the sheets at such a wonderful price!

Sets of the shrub sheets will be available through the Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program. Contact Kathy Leo of the Nongame program at P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, or call 304-637-0245.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- **WINTER BOTANY WORKSHOP -** February 18, 1995. Workshop will begin at 10:00 am and run through the afternoon.. Location to be announced. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Mark Chatfield from West Virginia State College. The event is sponsored by the Charleston Chapter of WVNPS. Contact Gay Brown for further information about the format and location, at: 2 Geary Road, South Charleston, WV 25303, 304-744-8344.
- **RARE PLANT ROUNDUP - MARCH** 18, 1995. Workshop will begin at 10:00am and end at 2:00pm. Meet at the DNR Operations Ctr. south of Elkins on Ward Road. A brief foray to see *Trillium nivale* (snow trillium), near Bickle Knob just east of Elkins.
- **WVNPS BOARD MEETING - Scheduled** for March 4, 1995 at 10:00 am at Western Steer Steak House, Flatwoods, WV. The meeting will be adjourned at 2:47 pm.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO THE NEXT ISSUE OF NATIVE NOTES - FEB 15, 1995.

