

NATIVE



NOTES

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

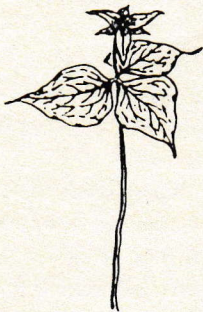
Volume 4, Number 2

August, 1997

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Kudos to President Steve Mace for working on the revision of our by-laws and a host of other things! There were a few major items that members of the organization have been wanting to change. Steve took the time to carefully review and prepare a draft document for the Board Members review. The changes will be presented to the membership for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

As you will see from this newsletter, a lot of field and herbarium work are unfolding in the rolling hills of West Virginia. One activity of huge proportions is the revision of the *Flora of West Virginia*. The work is being done primarily through volunteers, including that of the primary committee. Volunteers are still needed! If you have an interest in a particular family or genera, there is much you can contribute. Contact Donna Ford-Werntz at the address or phone number listed under 1997 WVPNS officers. (page 6)



Painted Trillium

Very soon you will be receiving a letter with details concerning the **WVNPS ANNUAL MEETING** to be held from **FRIDAY SEPT. 5TH THROUGH SUNDAY SEPT. 7TH**. The business meeting will be conducted on Saturday evening.

STRATEGIES FOR STARTING A WILDFLOWER GARDEN

By: Peter Heus

At one time or another during an autumn stroll you may have noticed the fuzzy spheres of seeds on ironweeds, or the swollen pods of milkweeds and wondered how to gather the seeds of these plants and sow them in your own yard eventually growing healthy, flowering beauties. Maybe you think that propagating native plants is a difficult proposition. In some cases yes, wild plant propagation is difficult, and patience is a much needed commodity for most. Actually, many native plants are easy to raise from seed, even easier by cuttings and the fastest and simplest of all by division. However, I must admit that I do not sit around in a lawn chair watching the seed flats to spot the first emerging leaves.

Let's explore raising wildflowers from their seeds. To begin with you must find a location with a population of the plants you wish to grow. Keep in mind, that you will need to locate several plants in order to collect enough seeds to start your own flower beds.

Harvest seed only from strong colonies, AND - leave plenty behind to minimize your impact on the wild population. Usually, you will find that many seeds have already been dispersed by the time you arrive. In that case, collect as

many as you wish from those remaining on plants.

There are roughly three kinds of seeds that require somewhat different methods of handling. *The first type are seeds that have ARILS.* These structures are starchy food offerings attached to the seed. They are designed to entice crawling insects like ants to carry the seed away from the mother plant, thereby ensuring better seed dispersal. Plants that have this type of seed are mostly spring flowering woodland plants including trilliums, bloodroot, twinleaf, trout

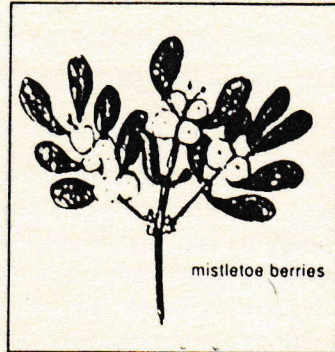
WVNPS New Mailing Address

West Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 75403
Charleston, WV 25375-0403

lily, hepaticas and a few others. *Seeds of this type must not be allowed to dry out before planting, or years may be added to the time required for germination.*

The second type of seed includes those enclosed in fruits such as berries.

Many spring flowering woodland plants encase their seeds in berries so that birds will eat them and process them in their guts, sowing them throughout the forest as they fly. Desirable natives whose seeds are encased in fruits include Solomon's Seal, Solomon's plume, orange mandarin, blue cohosh, spikenard, ginseng, goldenseal, white baneberry, jack-in-the pulpit, feverwort, and many shrubs and trees. Berries ripen from summer through fall and must be checked frequently if you want to beat the birds to them.



Once you have collected the fruits of the plants you desire to grow, you must process them before planting. Allow the berries to ferment in a jar of water for a few days. This will break down and loosen the pulp surrounding the seeds. Next wash the resulting mess in a screen-type strainer using your fingers to force the pulp through the screen. Allow cleaned seeds to air dry so that they aren't wet, **but do not dry out completely.** Both seeds with arils and seeds from fruits should either be planted immediately after processing, or stored at 40 degree F, in the refrigerator in plastic bags, in a damp media such as peat, or moistened vermiculite.

The third group of seeds are dry ripened seeds. Most herbaceous perennials, biennials and annuals have this type of seed which can be dispersed in a variety of ways. Plants may drop their seeds on the ground around them as do most mints, or catapult them outward through ingenious spring-loaded mechanisms. Wild petunia, wild geranium and New Jersey Tea use this method of dispersal. Collected capsules of these plants, if placed in paper bags and hung in a warm dry place, will explode periodically as they dry out, often startling you if you are around. The always reliable winds do the work of spreading the

seeds of "friendly" or "unfriendly" plants. Fluffy heads of the dandelion happily introduce every child to this technique of sending seeds aloft while spawning much grief and hard work for their lawn conscious parents. Many composites use this aerial technique as do the milkweeds and maples.

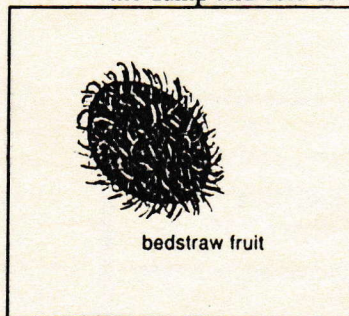
Seeds of this type may be stored dry until you are ready to attempt germination and stratification.

Depending on your preference, (it appears to make little difference) dry seeds may be stored in envelopes either kept in the refrigerator, or at room temperature so long as you keep mice and other seed eaters from them. Longevity of seeds so stored is not a critical issue as long as you plant during the next growing season.

Now, for the easy part - collecting your seeds.

FREQUENT SURVEILLANCE of the colony you wish to collect from is the key. Seeds ripen on most plants usually in about a month from flowering. Woodland beauties require particular vigilance as many plants drop their seeds over a few short days. One way I've been able to beat the bugs and birds is by snipping off the nearly ripe pods, or capsules (the whole fruiting stalk) and placing them in a vase like cut flowers, or in a pot of moist peat. The seeds will continue to ripen and soon the pods will split and drop the seeds. This technique works for most plants, even late flowering composites, so you don't have to be there exactly when the seeds are ready.

Nature has devised several methods of inhibiting germination so that sufficient time has passed for seeds to be distributed and to ensure that germination occurs under the right conditions. Since most seeds ripen late in the season, it makes no sense for them to germinate and start growing as the days are getting shorter and freezing temperatures are on the horizon. Many seeds have chemical inhibitors that are slowly broken down in the damp and cold of winter. The process of



artificially mimicking this, is known commonly as stratification. Generally, almost all of the woodland wildflower species require stratification to germinate and the easiest way to accomplish this is to sow the seeds in flats and place outdoors in a shady spot

for the whole winter. Watch for seedlings in the spring or summer. Better still, if you have a patch of

woods, is to work up beds or install a cold frame for planting. Bear in mind that some species of woodland natives planted this way will not come up until the second spring including trilliums, Solomon's seal, Solomon's plume, ginseng, Turk's cap lily and others. Another method involves storing fresh seed in damp peat, sand, or vermiculite in plastic bags, kept over winter in your refrigerator. Other seeds besides those of woodland plants require at least 60 days of this cold moist storage before planting, and they are too numerous to mention here.

All in all, if you give seeds with unknown requirements outdoor treatment, they will probably germinate in the spring.

Many plants have seeds that require no pre-treatment in order to germinate. Many of the mints, composites and nearly all grasses are easily germinated after dry storage. Legumes have very hard seed coats that must be abraded before they will sprout. To do this, you can lightly grind the seeds between two sheets of medium grit sandpaper, or use a file to nick the seed coat.

It is now time to go over the actual planting of seeds and how to maximize success. **AS A GENERAL RULE, SEEDS SHOULD BE PLANTED TO A DEPTH TWICE THEIR WIDTH.** Very small seeds should not be covered at all as they often require light to germinate.

Lobelias have seeds of this type. Any good commercial seed starting mix or potting soil will work as a starting medium. You can also make your own by mixing two parts peat moss, one part perlite, and one part sand. Garden soil should be sterilized by cooking in a 140 degree oven for ninety minutes to eliminate weed seeds and plant pathogens.

Scattering sifted whole sphagnum, ground charcoal,

**WEST VIRGINIA NURSERIES
WHICH
CARRY NATIVE PLANTS**

ENCHANTER'S GARDEN
Peter Heus (304/466-3154)
Buck Rt. Box 108
Hinton, WV 25951

SUNSHINE FARMS AND GARDENS
Barry Glick (304/497-3163)
Renick, West Virginia 24966

NORTH SLOPE NURSERY
John Sanders (304/637-6274)
HC 74 Box 284
Brooks, WV 25951

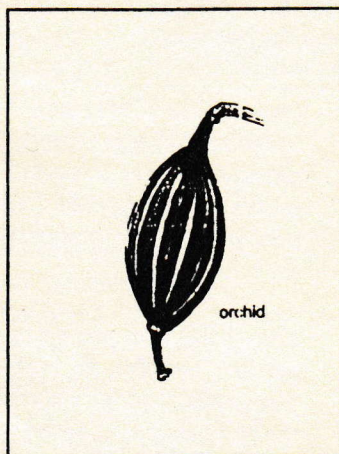
or granite grit over the pots or flats will help prevent damping off of seedlings. I prefer wooden flats four-to-five inches deep for starting seeds, but plastic ones will work, and you may also sow directly into two-to-four inch pots. A few seeds in each pot will work.

After planting and labeling, you might dimple the soil with your fingertips, which gives seeds in the dimples more available moisture. **Water from below after planting**, or use a fine mist especially with small surface-planted seeds. Until seeds have germinated,

keep the media moist but not sopping wet. After seeds have sprouted, allow the surface to dry out between waterings to discourage disease. You may use a soluble fertilizer at half the recommended strength to encourage your seedlings. When plants have gotten their second set of true leaves, they may be transplanted into pots, or moved into larger pots. Give seedlings as much light as possible and at least 70 degrees F to promote germination.

I will mention one other method to create a natural planting, **DIRECT SOWING**. This method is generally not as effective a method for establishing a flower garden. However, if you have an open site resulting from some disturbance, you can establish natives simply by scattering seeds on the ground in the fall. This works miracles around newly built ponds if you can scatter seeds from many appropriate species. (Check with your local Soil Conservation Service office or from the list of nurseries at the top of the page.)

This discussion just "scratches" the surface of all there is to know about propagating wild plants, but it should be enough to get you started. The following books should be helpful as well. **GOOD LUCK!**



**SEED GERMINATION THEORY
AND PRACTICE**

Norman C. Deno (self published)
139 Lenor Drive
State College, PA 16801

**GROWING AND PROPAGATING
WILD FLOWERS**

Harry R. Phillips
The University of North Carolina Press

ODE TO PENNYROYAL

(Hedeoma pulegioides)

Emily Grafton

A summer day - soft, warm breezes ripple through the trees, lifting and settling their branches with a rhythmic yet unpredictable pattern like ceaseless waves upon the beach. Billions and billions of photons make the earth green and the sky a pulsating, deep blue. By days end, the mountains are shrouded with a heavy haze. A cornucopia of herbal scents that with the first rays of dawn have continuously wafted skyward, hang in the air. The fragrance from thousands of tiny chemical factories all mingled into one. But on certain days, under certain conditions a few plants, like pennyroyal, may steal the atmosphere with their presence.

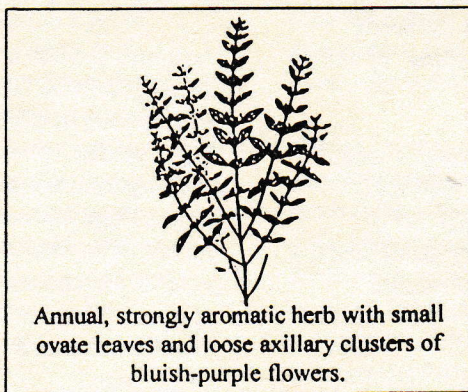
To me, pennyroyal is one of those herbs that "comforteth the heart and maketh it merry," to quote the poetic, and controversial Renaissance herbalist John Gerard. My feelings about Pennyroyal are related to two things, its rich, minty fragrance, and a memorable day associated with my discovery of its aroma.

Hedeoma pulegioides, a native member of the mint family was first introduced to me one late-summer day while exploring the Greenbrier River Rail-Trail with a band of other "plant seekers." The day was much like the one described in the first paragraph, except that the climate was very hot and steamy. The discomforts of mid-day in the open sun had long set in when someone placed a crushed leaf of pennyroyal in my hand. A wonderful fragrance filled my nostrils, initiating the revival of my brain

from a heat-induced stupor. We became again, a lively group as conversation erupted over this weed.

Hedeoma pulegioides has a distant European cousin, *Mentha pulegium* with which it shares similar chemical properties. Both plants have been used as medicinals by people on both continents for thousands of years. Native Americans taught the earliest European arrivals how and when to use American pennyroyal. The ancient Romans (as far as we know from historical records) taught other Europeans about the virtues of European pennyroyal. The most consistent utilization of these plants over time, has been as an insect repellent. However, a host of other uses were made of the primary chemical ingredient, pulegone, including stomach upset, colds, fevers and unfortunately as an abortifacient.

Pennyroyal taken as a tea, made from a few tablespoons of leaves is a fairly safe treatment for stomach upset or as a mild sedative, even though other herbal products are more effective at treating these conditions. It is also a quite safe and effective repellent for mosquitoes, fleas and other insect pests when crushed leaves are rubbed over the skin. However, **the use of pure pennyroyal oil in any form is potentially dangerous.**



Annual, strongly aromatic herb with small ovate leaves and loose axillary clusters of bluish-purple flowers.

The pure oil was first distilled in the middle of the nineteenth century and before the century was through, it was discovered that an internal consumption of a tablespoon or less could be fatal. The chemical, pulegone was discovered about the same time the oil was distilled.

To sort out the difference between ingesting the oil and preparations of the plant, Michael Castleman says in his book *Healing Herbs*, "University of Illinois pharmacognocist Norman Farnsworth, PhD estimates it would take 75 gallons of strong pennyroyal tea to approach a potentially toxic dose of the pure oil."

Pennyroyal does make a nice addition to an herb garden. Last fall, my husband and I collected some pennyroyal from an old railroad grade and brought the plants home. I added the pennyroyal to my garden by gently crushing the mature flower heads

around the perimeter of a two foot by three foot raised bed in my back yard. In June, six plants came up and are thriving. The tiny egg-shaped leaves and pyramidal-spreading branches make a nice border around my other mints and rosemary. On really warm afternoons, a hint of pennyroyal fragrance hangs over the flower bed.

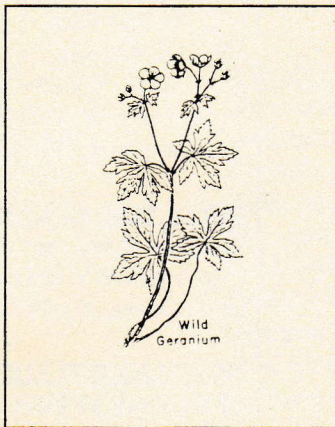
One sultry evening a few weeks ago, I rubbed some crushed leaves over my arms and legs before canoeing on the Monongahela River. It seemed to keep the mosquitoes away. It is highly recommended as a flea repellent for pets. Make a pennyroyal flea collar, or layer the leaves across your pets sleeping area. Or, spread some leaves across your lawn just before you mow. Then sit back with a glass of tea and enjoy the herbal essence.

**ACTION CONTINUES AT
WVU HERBARIUM!**

By: Donna Ford-Werntz

The year is only half over, but exciting progress has been made at the WVU Herbarium in Morgantown! Our most active project involves entering label information from the specimens into the WV Flora Computer Database System of the WV Natural Heritage Program. The computerized data files will be used to produce a WV Flora Atlas, consisting of a distribution map (by county) for every native and naturalized plant species in the state.

Funding for this work was received from two WVU Public Service Grants for January, 1997 through June, 1998. The grants pay to employ two half-time data entry technicians, Shanda King and Dan Smith (replaced after spring graduation by Rich McGervey). To date over 14,000 records from nearly 1,200 species have been loaded into the computer, bringing us nearly to the halfway point on the list of **2,523 names in the WV flora!** Of course, the hardest work is yet to come, including more than 200 "problem species" needing additional work (not represented in the WVU collection or



having taxonomic or nomenclatural difficulty requiring further study).

A second major ongoing project, to accession each specimen with a unique number, has advanced substantially in 1997 as well. At present, 55,470 sheets have been logged of an estimated 150,000 in the herbarium. Thus, after 2.5 years of work, about 1/3 of the collection has been processed, with West Virginia material representing 42% of the collections, other states 49%, and foreign countries 9%. The other main curatorial activity, that of mounting specimens, is proceeding slowly due to the time consuming nature of the task and limited staff/funds. Over 2,000 West Virginia collections, containing important distribution information for the flora atlas and Strausbaugh & Core revision projects, are in a mounting backlog with their data inaccessible. At current work rates, it will take nearly two years to process these specimens.

WVU Herbarium Curator, Dr. Donna Ford-Werntz, is kept quite busy supervising these important projects, in addition to her teaching duties (two courses--WV Flora and Plant Systematics). She also performs other critical research and service functions, including revision of Liliaceae for a 3rd edition of the *Flora of West Virginia*, inter-institutional loans and exchanges, plant identification and information inquiries, herbarium tours, and special programs. Any questions or comments concerning the WVU Herbarium may be directed to her by mail at the WVU Biology Dept., Box 6057, Morgantown, WV 26506 or by calling (304)293-5201 X2549. The herbarium has a website at <http://www.as.wvu.edu/biology/herbarium.html>. Dr. Ford can also be reached online by email to diford@wvu.edu.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS!

EXPLORE - *BLISTER SWAMP*

SEPTEMBER 14, 1997

WHERE: Meet in Bartow at the Greenbrier Ranger Station of the US Forest Service

WHEN: 11am

CONTACT: Dave Saville at 594-2276 or e-mail at daves@labs.net

Located in the Northeastern corner of Pocahontas County, Blister Swamp is the headwaters of the East Fork of the Greenbrier River. Although little known, it is botanically one of the most interesting places in the state. Known locally as Blister Pine, the swamp got its name from the native stand of Balsam Fir growing there. Several cold water springs feeding the swamp combined with an elevation of 3,637 feet make conditions favorable for many plants of northern distribution. Because of the limestone geology, much of the area was girdled and burned around the time of the civil war to allow bluegrass to seed into the area naturally. Today, the Balsam Fir remains along with several other plants of note. Twin flower, specked alder, swamp saxifrage, buckthorn, white monkshood, and goldthread are just a few of the interesting plants found here.

HIKE OR BIKE SCENIC

DECKERS CREEK RAIL TRAIL

AUGUST 17, 1997

WHERE: Meet at East side of Kroger parking lot in Sabraton

WHEN: 8:30 am

CONTACT: Mike Breiding at 291-0020 or mbreiding@labs.net

Enjoy the plants and scenery along the rail grade in Preston and Monongalia counties. Join Billy Joe Peyton on a bike trip to view some of the cultural and historical highlights of the area. Biking will be over ungraded and untamped rail bed. Length will be determined by the participants when we meet. You will also have the option of engaging in some serious botanizing with hike leaders Bill and Emily Grafton on one of the more scenic sections of Deckers Creek.

1997 WVNPS OFFICERS

The following people are here to serve the WVNPS. Please let them hear from you and know what you want to happen with the Native Plant Society.

PRESIDENT: STEVE MACE

PO Box 122

New Haven, WV 25265-0122

home phone: 304/882-2450

fax - 304/882-2450

VICE PRESIDENT: BILL GRAFTON

456 West Virginia Avenue

Morgantown, WV 26505

home phone: 304/292-0229

work: 304/293-4792x2493

TREASURER: DONNA FORD-WERTZ

West Virginia University

POB 6057

Morgantown, WV 26506-6057

work phone: 304/293-5201x2533

RECORDING SECRETARY: GAY BROWN

2 Geary Road

South Charleston, WV 25303

home phone: 304/744-8344

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

KEITH SEARLS

608 13th Avenue

Huntington, WV 25701

home phone: 304/529-3186

business phone: 304/429-6741

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: PAT BARKER

1566 Lee Street, Apt. 3

Charleston, WV 25311

home phone: 304/345-8143

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

EMILY GRAFTON

456 West Virginia Avenue

Morgantown, WV 26505

home phone: 304/292-0229

e-mail - egrafton@aol.com

FELD TRIP REPORTS

TRI-STATE CHAPTER:

Romie Hughart has submitted reports from three Tri-State Chapter field trips. Kudos to Romie and everyone who has sent reports in the last few years. **Please take the time to jot down the plants you see** and their location on any field trip you may take in the future. Your observations will be placed in the newsletter. If you wish not to reveal the location of something really rare, that is fine. Who knows, twenty years from now the Native Plant Society field trip reports may provide some graduate student with a thesis.

Date of field trip: April 20, 1997.

Location: Beechfork lake, Wayne County, near the main dam.

Plants seen:

Common Name

Twin-leaf
Hoary puccoon
Dwarf larkspur
Sessile trillium
Plantain-leaved pussytoes
Golden seal
Field pussytoes
Single-headed pussytoes
Fragrant sumac
Sand bittercress
Southern wood violet

Spreading chervil

Scientific Name

Jeffersonia diphylla
Lithospermum canescens
Delphinium tricorne
Trillium sessile
Antennaria plantaginifolia (var. ambigens)
Hydrastis canadensis
Antennaria neglecta
Antennaria solitaria
Rhus aromatica
Cardamine parviflora
Viola hirsutula
Viola x. bissita
Chaerophyllum procumbens



Date of field trip: May 3, 1997

Location: Cabwaylingo State Forest

People attending: 14

Plants seen:

Common Name

Golden alexanders
Trillium erectum (white form)
Wood betony
Sedge
Yellow mandarin
Blue cohosh
Showy orchis
Yellow ladyslipper
Aniseroot
Pennywort
Bellwort
Comfrey
Goldenseal
American gromwell
Green violet
Meehania

Scientific name

Zizia aurea
Trillium erectum
Pedicularis canadensis
Carex plantaginea
Disporum lanuginosum
Caulophyllum thalictroides
Orchis spectabilis
Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens
Osmorhiza longistylis
Obolaria virginia
Uvularia perfoliata
Symphytum officinale
Hydrastis canadensis
Lithospermum latifolium
Hybanthus concolor
Meehania cordata

MORGANTOWN CHAPTER:

Date of field trip: July 3, 1997

Location: Farm of the Jack Beaver family in rural Barbour County

Participants: Eleanor Bush (field trip organizer), Charlie Baer, Betty Baer, Bill Grafton, Emily Grafton and Donna Ford-Werntz.

Plants Seen:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Nut sedge	<i>Scleria</i>
Spreading pogonia	<i>Triphora trianthophora</i>
Ragged fringed orchid	<i>Habenaria lacera</i>
Yellow fringed orchid	<i>Habenaria ciliaris</i>
Rose polygala	<i>Polygala sanguinea</i>
Whorled milkwort	<i>Polygala verticillata</i>
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinamomea</i>
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
Grape	<i>Labrusca</i>
Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Velvet grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Fescue	<i>Festuca spp.</i>
Virginia meadow-beauty	<i>Rhexia virginica</i>
Canada St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum canadense</i>
Sweet shrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> (planted)
Lance-leaved loosestrife	<i>Lysmachia lanceolata</i>
Whorled loosestrife	<i>Lysmachia quadrifolia</i>



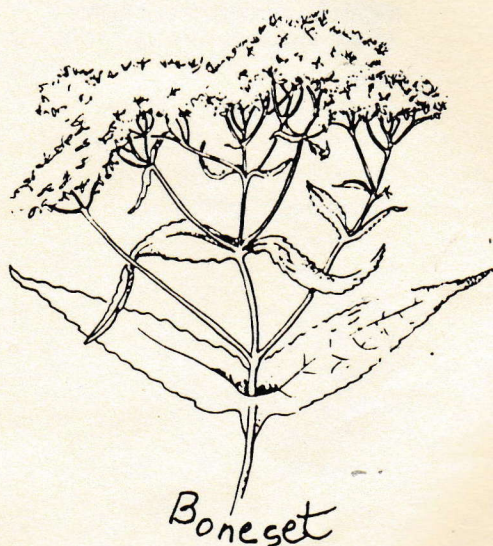
Date of field trip: July 26, 1997

Location: Tour of Cheat Bridge area o Shavers Fort

Participants: Bill Grafton (leader), Ken and Ginnie Cronenberger, Mike and Betsy Breiding, Donna Ford-Werntz

Plants Seen:

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Club orchid	<i>Habenaria clavellata</i>
False asphodel	<i>Tofieldia glutinosa</i>
Oceanurus	<i>Zigadenus leimanthoides</i>
Mountain wood fern	<i>Drpteris campyloptera</i>
Long beech fern	<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>
Bog club moss	<i>Lycopodium inundatum</i>
Southern mountain cranberry	<i>Vaccinium erythrocarpum</i>
Alpine enchanters nightshade	<i>Circaea alpina</i>
Woodland strawberry (white berries)	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Small green wood orchid	<i>Habenaria clavellata</i>
Long-stalked holly	<i>Ilex collina</i>
Star-flowered plume lily	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>
Turk's cap lily	<i>Lilium superbum</i>



TRAJEDY IN THE MOUNTAINS

Submitted by: Dave Saville

R. D. Carpenter, who wrote the following article in 1937, for the "Gateway", the newsletter of the Monongahela National Forest, was the Assistant Ranger on the Gauley Ranger District of the Forest. Most of this district is made up of lands of the former Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company purchased in 1933 by the USA in a single tract of 153,000 acres.

The McClintic Trail: by: R.D. Carpenter

Between the years of 1894 and 1900, the Gauley Lumber Company, predecessor of the Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company, began to operate the softwood, spruce and hemlock in the drainage of the Middle Fork of Williams River. Their mill was located at Gauley Mills, approximately one mile above Camden-on-Gauley and there was no mill at Richwood at that time.

The heads of the Gauley Lumber Company figured it would be possible to drive softwood logs down the Williams River to their mill. Stream improvements in the form of splash dams and channel improvements were consequently made and negotiations initiated for the cutting.

Logging on all these operations was done by contract and it was to Withrow McClintic that the contract went to cut and skid 10,000,000 feet of softwood logs from the watershed of the Middle Fork of Williams River to the banks of the stream. The company intended to do its own driving.

Early in the game, it was discovered that the operation was impossible due to the lack of a sufficiently continuous head of water to float out the logs. When this was determined, the company immediately tried to stop Withrow McClintic from cutting more logs. Withrow's contract, however, had been so cannily written that he could not be stopped. In spite of the obvious futility of the enterprise, he doggedly kept on cutting and skidding and drawing his pay at so much per thousand feet until his contract was entirely filled.

In an effort to stop this wild cutting, the company forbade McClintic to take his supplies over their land up the Middle Fork of Williams River to his camps.

It was in reply to this mandate that McClintic built the McClintic Trail from his farm to the site of the aforesaid camps. Due to the impossibility of driving the logs out and the lack of other facilities for getting them to the mill, the entire 10,000,000 feet of logs were lost to the company. Today masses of these logs can be seen scattered along the banks of the Williams River where they have been stranded by high water and only partially rotted away.

After more than forty years the McClintic Trail exists today and can be easily followed through the woods. In only a few spots is it grown up to brush enough to noticeably impede foot travel. Originally, of course, it was constructed for wagon travel. At the halfway point on Black Mountain there formerly existed a house known as the "half-way house" and for many years was kept by two brothers of rather eccentric character who during their residence contributed greatly to the stock of local legends. At the half-way house horses hauling in supplies were put up and rested overnight.

Thus the true history of the McClintic Trail explodes many mythical legends in circulation at the present time. The McClintic Trail was neither an old Indian by-way nor a road traveled by Confederate forces during the Civil War. It was simply a road to waste and heartrending ruin. THE END.

Although I have not been able to follow the exact route of the McClintic Trail, I have seen the remains of the piles of logs still, and the remains of a large splash dam on the main stem of the Middle Fork of the Williams River. Much of the original trail is along the route of the Highlands Scenic Highway and therefore impossible to locate. However, the Middle Fork Trail in the Cranberry Wilderness Area follows a section of the original McClintic Trail. The Middle Fork of the Williams River lies entirely within the Cranberry Wilderness.

If you would like more information about existing sections of this trail and how to access them, contact Dave Saville at: e-mail: daves@labs.net, or call 304/594-2276.



ABIES balsamea

**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
COUPON**

Please sign me up as a member of WVNPS!

Name(s) _____

Phone: (h) _____

Address _____

(w) _____

Membership Dues:

Individual: \$8 (new members only: Jan 1-Mar 31, \$8. Apr 1-June 30, \$6. Jul 1-Sep 30, \$4. Oct 31-Dec 31, \$2.)

Family: \$12 (new members only: Jan-Mar 31, \$12. Apr 1-June 30, \$9. Jul 1-Sep 30, \$6. Oct 31-Dec 31 \$3.)

Student \$5 Life: 200

Preferred Chapter. _____

I wish to make an additional contribution to the WVNPS in the amount of _____.

This is a gift membership. Please include a card with my name as donor: _____

WVNPS

PO Box 75403

Charleston, WV 25375-0403



JUDY DUMKE
7302 COUNTY ROAD #15
CHESAPEAKE, OH 45619

[12/31/97]