

NATIVE



Kate's Mountain Clover

NOTES

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 4, Number 3

December, 1997

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

On February 6, 1998 the West Virginia Native Plant Society will observe its 5th anniversary, since reorganization. Much has been accomplished in the last five years. The set of fact sheets called *NATIVE SHRUBS IN WILDLIFE LANDSCAPING* have been completed. Work has progressed well on refurbishing the signs for the Brooks Arboretum in Watoga State Park. Field trips and workshops have been held in different parts of the state. Two local chapters are up and running. So, what does the next five years hold in store for the WVNPS? Well that is up to you.

I would like to ask you to attend the next Board of Directors meeting and let us know your thoughts and ideas on the WVNPS. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 28 at the Western Steer in Flatwoods at 10:00 AM. A few exciting project ideas have been proposed and we will discuss these. We usually end the meetings as close to 1:30 PM as possible.

Some of the questions I would like to ask you to think of include the following. Is the organization going in the right direction? Are there specific field trips or workshops you would like to see conducted? Would you like to see more chapters in the state? Would you like to see a larger or smaller newsletter, more often, different format?

Your suggestions are important and necessary. If you are unable to attend this Board of Directors Meeting, drop me a line with your thoughts. I'll relay your ideas to the board, anonymously if you wish.

If you can attend the board meeting please let me know. We would like to have some idea how many to expect. All the best for the holidays and the New Year! Steve Mace

Phone: 304/882-2450, or write
PO Box 122, New Haven, WV 25265-0122

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This past year has been a whirlwind of new ideas, new members and one with a lot of promise for the years ahead. I attended the West Virginia Herb Growers Annual Meeting at Jackson's Mill and discovered an exciting, active organization dedicated to some of the same goals and ideals we promote. It was proposed that the two organizations collaborate on a joint project to educate the public about ethical and environmentally sound ways to utilize our native and naturalized plants.

There is a growing concern in the scientific and amateur communities about the onslaught of wild plant harvesting, notwithstanding the devastating impact that hungry, overstocked deer are having on our beautiful wildflowers. All groups and individuals concerned about native plants need to join forces in order to be heard and to make a difference. How about a visit to our legislators on E-Day during the legislative session?

Now, to address the newsletter. A great big thank you, to those who have sent articles. We have a real potpourri of topics and interests in this newsletter. It seems a good thing that *Native Notes* serves as conduit disseminating and interconnecting the diverse interests, problems and reports about native plants. *Native Notes* is **not** a gardening magazine, **not** an herbal companion, **nor** a scientific journal. What it is, is an expression of all of the above and more.

Hopefully, there is something of interest to each and every member in the newsletter. I owe one huge apology to a member who requested a series of articles on people, "weed picker people." Dan, your idea is wonderful! I promise - next issue.

Please keep sending those field trip reports! My e-mail address has changed, it is (egrafton@labyrinth.net) **PEACE BE WITH YOU ONE AND ALL, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN IN THE FIELDS, FORESTS AND**

SWAMPS.....!



CORRECTION! I reported two incorrect scientific names in the article on the Beaver's Farm in the last issue. The scientific name of nut sedge is *Scleria triglomerata* (Michx). The correct scientific name of *spreading pogonia* is *Cleistes bifaria* (Fern). Thanks to Eleanor Bush for catching these.

SMALL FLOWERED SCORPION WEED A Plant That Demands investigation and Observation

by: Judy Dumke

During the spring of 1996 I found a rather large population of *Phacelia ranunculaceae* (Nutt.) Constance on the Wayne National Forest in Lawrence County, Ohio. The location is just across the river from Huntington, West Virginia. This lucky find moved the species from the extirpated category to the endangered status in Ohio. Given this information, I started to look into the population status on a regional basis. The first surprise came in Gleason and Cronquist, 2nd ed. which listed very unusual chromosome count(s), $2n=12$ (Ozarkian) and $2n=28$ (Appalachian). The extreme difference in these numbers can't even be explained by simple polyploidy

The range given in Gleason was ne VA and adj. MD; c NC, s Ind. and s Ill to w Tenn., SE MO and NE Ark. So I started to inquire about the plant in those locations. A report in the Indiana natural areas newsletter stated that in the last two years populations had finally been found in the area around Evansville, the previous record from Terra Haute was very old. The plant was classified as endangered for the state. Illinois does not have it on their rare list but the 1959 Flora of Southern Illinois lists six counties with a record.

At the Missouri Botanical Garden I was able to ask George Yatskievych about this species and he said it is quite uncommon and the references to the common small flowered phacelia in Missouri is often referred to as *Phacelia quilioides* Brand, a plains species. The annotated plant list of Tennessee plants lists it as threatened. Brown and Athey list it from the coastal plain and Mississippian drainage counties of Kentucky; small-flowered scorpion weed is not on the rare list for that state. In West Virginia, Donna Ford-Werntz reports 7 records in the herbarium, 3 from Jackson County and 4 from Roan County. She also has two records from D.C., three from Maryland, one from North Carolina and one from Virginia.

The Flora of the Carolinas lists records in four counties from North Carolina, all of which are clustered in the north central part of the state near the coastal plain/piedmont border. Rodney Bartgis informed me that the plant is very uncommon in Maryland. Maryland has recently acquired protection for a location having a substantial population.

Where it occurs, small flowered scorpion weed is found in alluvial, lightly shaded small stream drainages. Also, large numbers of plants are usually present in the few locations where it is found. The plant has a tiny blossom and short blooming period (late April or early May), which reduces the chances that it will be observed. Consequently, it may or may not be as uncommon as the records show; it may simply be overlooked. So in late April or early May this spring, look closely when you are in lightly shaded small stream drainages for a weak, ferny-like leaf with a few washed out purple, barely visible, small flowers.

For more information, a starting point in the literature would be Allard, H.A. *Phacelia ranunculaceae* (Nutt.) Constance, Its Length of Day, Temperature Reactions and Seasonal Adaptations. Castanea 5: 94-97, 1940. This is a plant which asks questions of us, let's respond by looking at it more carefully.

SO MUCH FOR PRISTINE HABITATS

by: Bill Grafton

Stories abound of abundant orchids in damp, hidden coves, remote mountain bogs and on steep limestone escarpments. However, observations made this year of orchids on some of the most barren and harsh environments may debunk the requirement of pristine habitats for good orchid hunting.

Several years ago, Mike Breiding piqued my interest with tales of bog club moss in four old sand quarries west of Masontown on the Monongalia-Preston border. In a 1996 autumn visit lots of bog club moss and some *Scirpus purshianis* and a few yellow fringed orchids were found.

In mid-August of 1997, Clete Smith of the three "orchid nuts" fame (Clete Smith, Al Shriver and Scott Sshriver) and I, failed in an attempt to relocate an old historical site for Bayard's adders-mouth (*Malaxis bayardii*) on nearby Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area. A quick visit to the nearby sand pits resulted in finding 60 yellow-fringed orchids (*Habenaria ciliaris*) and a dozen adder's mouth plants.

In early September, Donna Ford-Werntz and I joined the 3 orchid nuts for a day of serious plant hunting at the sand pits. What a day!! First, we relocated the yellow-fringed orchids, and green adder's mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*) and hundreds of yellow bartonia (*Bartonia virginica*). Before we could get out of the first sand pit, Clete was dancing a jig with finds of large twayblade and little ladies tresses.

Onward to the next sand pit to find even more yellow-fringed orchids and a few more green adder's mouth and little ladies tresses. A wet area turned up lots of Loesel's twayblade, and small green wood orchid. In drier open areas were a dozen or so slender ladies tresses.

A third sand pit was equally interesting with loads of orchids. Then we found a really neat wet sphagnum area that had chain fern, large cranberry and *Lycopodium adpressum*. In late September part of the crew visited a fourth sand pit and found more yellow fringed orchids and nodding ladies tresses.

In early November, Dr. Warren H. "Herb" Wagner (renowned fern specialist from Michigan University) presented a two-day seminar at WVU. The program was co-hosted by WVU, Salem Teikyo University and Fairmont State College through the efforts of Dr. Ron Fortney of Salem, Steve Stephenson of Fairmont and Donna Ford-Werntz of WVU.

While on a field trip to the quarry areas, Dr. Wagner was very impressed with the *Lycopodium inundatum* and the *Lycopodium adpressum* found there. Jim Rentsch, bio prof at West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, impressed the whole group when he found the largest cranberry fruits that any of us had ever seen; some were an inch by one-half inch in size.

Some orchids and rare plants do flourish in deep rich mature woods and wilderness areas, but we sure do not want to overlook quarries, road cuts, old strip mines, ditches and highly disturbed areas that have had a decade or so to recover.

MOST UNUSUAL PLANTS SEEN IN THE QUARRY LOCATIONS:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Bog club moss	<i>Lycopodium inundatum</i>
Yellow-fringed orchid	<i>Habenaria ciliaris</i>
Bayard's adder's mouth	<i>Malaxis bayardii</i>
Green adder's mouth	<i>Malaxis unifolia</i>
Yellow bartonia	<i>Bartonia virginica</i>
Large twayblade	<i>Liparis lilifolia</i>
Little ladies tresses	<i>Spiranthes tuberosa</i>
Loesel's twayblade	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>
Small green wood orchid	<i>Platanthera clavellata</i>
Slender ladies tresses	<i>Spiranthes gracilis</i>
Chain fern	<i>Lorinseria areolata</i>
Large cranberry	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>
Lycopodium	<i>Lycopodium adpressum</i>

OTHER FIELD TRIP REPORTS

TRI-STATE CHAPTER

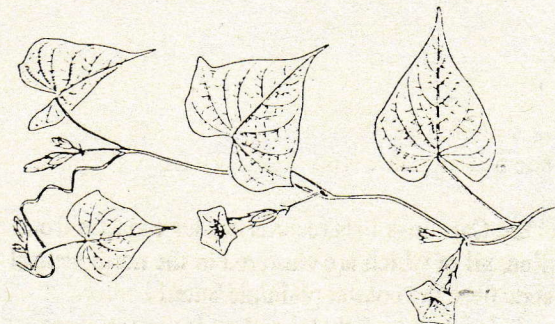
The following field trip report was submitted by Romie Hughart.

Date of Field trip: August 31, 1997

Location: Yatesville Lake, Kentucky

Plants seen:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Late flowering thoroughwort	<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>
Mist flower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>
Pasture thistle	<i>Cirsium pumilum</i>
Tick-trefoil	<i>Desmodium illinoiense</i>
Wingstem	<i>Actinomeis alternifolia</i>
Indian tobacco	<i>Lobelia inflata</i>
White vervain	<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>
Sensitive plant	<i>Cassia nictitans</i>
Mullein	<i>Verbascum thaspus</i>
Ivy-leaved morning glory	<i>Ipomea hederacea</i>
Pale Indian-plantain	<i>Cacalia atriplicifolia</i>
Fall phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>
Elephant foot	<i>Elephantopus carolinianus</i>
Downy skullcap	<i>Scutellaria incana</i>
Groundnut	<i>Apios americana</i>
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Wild lettuce	<i>Lactuca sp.</i>
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia sp.</i>
Aster	<i>Aster divaricatus</i>
Asiatic day flower	<i>Commelina communis</i>
Yellow jewel weed	<i>Impatiens pallida</i>
Spotted touch-me-not	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Sweet everlasting	<i>Gnaphalium obtusifolium</i>
Nodding ladies tresses	<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>
Round-leaved thoroughwort	<i>Eupatorium rotundifolium</i>
Flowering spurge	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>
Virginia meadow beauty	<i>Rhexia virginica</i>
Small-flowered morning glory	<i>Ipomoea lacunosa</i>
Stiff yellow flax	<i>Linum medium</i>



Ipomoea lacunosa

Kanawha Valley Chapter - report submitted by
Chris Gatens

The Kanawha Valley Chapter began the summer with a rigorous hike to the top of East River Mountain, near Oakvale, WV. The hike was lead by Doug Wood on May 5 to a location that is known locally as Jesse's Butt. We were all inspired by the strength and perseverance of Mark Chatfield's Mother, who journeyed to the summit and returned that evening to prepare dinner for us at her home.

Plants Seen

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Choke cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Lettuce saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga micranthidifolia</i>
American lily-of-the valley	<i>Convallaria montana</i>
Wild lily-of-the-valley	<i>Mianthemum canadense</i>
Purple rose bay	<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>

Date of field trip: July 13, 1997

Location: Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area

Plants Seen:

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Blue ash	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>
Kentucky coffee tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>
Water smartweed	<i>Polygonum coccineum</i>
Sand bar willow	<i>Salix interior</i>
Common water plantain	<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>
Swamp rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>

Date of field trip: August 3, 1997

Location: Slaty Mountain Preserve

Trip Leaders: Doug Wood and Diane Anestis

Plants seen:

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Yellow buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum alleni</i>
Kate's Mountain clover	<i>Trifolium virginicum</i>
Shale evening primrose	<i>Oenothera argillicola</i>
Dwarf hackberry	<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>
Shale bindweed	<i>Convolvulus purshianus</i>

**Call Chris if you want to know more about the chapter's winter outings: Chris Gatens (304/458-2533)

**FALL AND WINTER BERRIES
YOU CAN PLANT**

by: Barry Glick

You might think that there's not much to see outside after these first hard frosts and as far as greenery there is not. But if you happen upon the right place where the birds and bees have been successful in their pollination, there is a lot to see. At ground

level there is a colorful display of fruits that will ensure that many of our favorite wildflowers will continue to flourish in future generations.

One of the brightest reds is the large conical clusters of berries on *Arisaema triphyllum*, our Jack-in-the-pulpit, and it is very easy to grow from seed. Although there are no germination inhibitors in the pulp, it is still best to macerate the seed from the fruit and this is easily done in a colander under running water. You can then take the seeds and put them on top of soil in a four inch pot, cover with a layer of soil equal to their thickness and then a layer of grit or gravel to discourage slugs and snails from chomping down on your new babies as they emerge in the spring.

Almost resembling blueberries in size, color and shape are the fruits of *Caullophyllum thalictroides*, commonly known as blue cohosh. Although the flowers of this magnificent foliage plant are not much to write home about, the berries are quite striking as they persist well after the foliage succumbs to the ravages of the first autumn freezes. This is another easy plant to grow from seed, although it may take two years to germinate. Several plants have a double dormancy which you can outwit by a regimen of putting the seeds in moist vermiculite or sand and taking them in and out of the fridge at about six-week intervals.

My absolute favorite plant in berry has to be *Actea pachypoda*, AKA dolls eyes, and very appropriately so. A member of the Ranunculaceae family, this woodland gem has spring time spikes of soft white flowers over dark green dissected foliage. But autumn is when the show starts, the huge alabaster white berries on dark red pedicels have a black dot at the tips and look like the eyes of a doll lookin right atcha. COOL PLANT.



Panax quinquefolia (ginseng) has umbels of dark red berries and also makes a great plant for the woodland garden as does *Disporum lanuginosum*, especially if you're looking for something in a soft orange with oval shaped berries.

A plant that I really didn't appreciate until I saw it growing in a friends garden in England is *Smilacena racemosa*, false Solomon's seal. Another common name for this plant is plume

lily, which aptly describes its springtime flowers. Its large spikes of mottled red berries which occur in Autumn look almost 3-D.

Any of the above mentioned plants are easy to grow from seed, most take a few years to reach flowering size, but if you have the patience you can have a great woodland garden with little effort. Cheers! G Glickster.



BY-LAW REVISION, YIKES!

After much careful thought and discussion the following changes to the charter by-laws of WVNPS were prepared and voted on at the annual meeting in September. Several of the revisions had been informally adopted and in use for the past several years. Most of these were necessary to allow the organization to operate more efficiently. The following revisions **do not** need approval by the membership. However, if you have concerns about any change or want a copy please contact the Pres, Steve Mace with any objections you may have.

The changes are listed below with the new law written first and underlined, the old beneath..

DUES: Do in January
March

MEMBERSHIP: Notified if not paid by Feb 1
Termination Final if not paid by Feb 28
Notified if not paid by April 1

VOTES: Group membership entitled to one vote
group vote not addressed

CHAPTER REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD Chapter can select representative from among members
Chapter President only rep

ADDITION TO BOARD Editor of Native Notes will become member of board
not addressed in old by-laws

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS	<u>One name for each office to be selected by nominations committee</u> <u>nominations from the floor ok</u> <u>if nominee present at annual meeting to accept nominations</u> Positions for offices nominated by Nom/Elec committee or by petition signed by 5 members; 2 nominees for each vacancy, if possible
	<u>Election at annual meeting</u> Election by mailed ballot
TERMS OF OFFICE	<u>Begin January 1</u> Began April 1
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	<u>Held once a year and must include elections of Board of Directors</u> Held once a year for any purpose
FISCAL YEAR	<u>Begins Jan 1 and ends Dec 31</u> Began Apr 1 and ends March 31

LOBELIA CARDINALIS

by: Ann Payne



Ann is a botanical illustrator who lives in Morgantown.

SPECTACULAR ORCHID HUNTING IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA!! - Oct 11, 1997

By: Clete Smith

Surprisingly, one of the best times to look for orchids is in early autumn when the growing season comes to a close. Some are in bloom, some are in fruit, others show seed capsules and remnant leaves from the current years growth, and others show winter leaves or leaves that remain green all year. And at this time, we orchid aficionados especially relish our quest.

This year we selected Wayne, Mingo and Boone Counties for our forays. Our group consisted of Bernard (Bernie) Cyrus of Wayne County, Shane Roby of Mingo County, Bill Grafton, Cindy Davis, Scott Shriver and myself. We were all hosted at the "Cyrus Arms" in Wayne County. The hospitality of Bernie and Dolores Cyrus was very gracious.

The basic habitats that we look for are very simple. Dry roadside banks with ground pines and Polytrichum moss, roadside ditches and fields that remain wet year round, pine forests or plantations, deciduous mesic woods and cemeteries. Yes! Cemeteries!

Our day started bright and early Saturday morning when we went looking for *Spiranthes ovalis* var. *erostellata*, a site that Bernie had found a week or so before. This was on a friend's property near his house. We had to cross through the Wellman Family Cemetery to a pastured ridge to get to the site. We were unsuccessful at first because Bernie was not with us; he went squirrel hunting on opening day for the 50th consecutive year.

When he joined us it was just minutes till we found our first plants - right at the edge of the pasture. Others were dotted throughout the lightly wooded hillside. As we explored this area we found puttyroot, (*Aplectrum hymemale*), cranefly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) and downy rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*). We also found numerous plants of autumn coral root (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*). The real surprise came in finding the bright yellow color form; it has an all white lip, forma *flavida*. A few of the 11 plants of this form were of the open flower type (chasmogamous). Only one other time had we seen this plant in West Virginia; it was found by Bill Grafton in Wayne County last year. We have only one other site from Ohio. Definitely a good find!

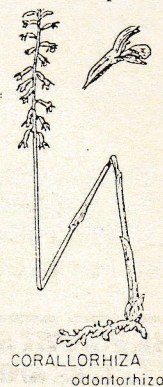
THE CEMETERY CONNECTIONS. Next, we headed into Mingo County and ended up high in the hills at a county cemetery, (Newsome Family.) The first delight was a group of people sitting around singing, playing guitar, and passing a Mason Jar of some clear liquid. Interestingly, the singing and playing got better with every pass of the jar.

This was a well maintained cemetery and we tread as carefully as possible. The site was located on a very dry mountain top and a perfect habitat for (*Spiranthes ochroleuca*). To our surprise, we found a lot of *Spiranthes cernua* instead. We have probably seen a hundred or more sites of *Spiranthes cernua* in wet or very wet habitats. According to Charles Sheviak, the acknowledged expert on *Spiranthes*, there exists an old field ecotype and a prairie ecotype that will grow on drier areas. This may be what we had found there. Growing amongst the *S. cernua* we found *Spiranthes lacera* var. *gracilis* in fruit, *Aplectrum hymale* was found in the woods below the cemetery. We bid adieu to our new friends who were singing even louder as we left.

The next adventure took us to the **Marrowbone Mining Company**. Ironically, this disturbed area was very good for orchids. We found a thick moss covered seep along a steep hill, bisected by a lumber road. In the edge of the moss, we found showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) in seed capsule with some leaves still remaining. On the hillside we found *C. odonthorhiza* and *Liparis lilifolia* in seed capsule and leaf rosettes of *Goodyera pubescens* and the winter leaf of *Tipularia discolor*. The habitat was moist damp woods.

In another area along this road, there was a nice rocky beech tree area with hundreds of beechdrops, *Epifagus virginianus*. There was a very light blond form that stood out like a candle in the dark humus of the woods. An interesting sidelight was the abundance of eastern comma butterflies (*Polygonia comma*) and a few question mark butterflies (*Polygonia interrogationis*). A truly beautiful site.

The next day we had barely started when we had to stop on a short side road. Ironically the road ended in a tiny, well maintained family (Bartram) cemetery. Around the mossy bank and on a mossy flat there were numerous *Spiranthes ochroleuca* in prime bloom. There is no mistaking this plant from *S. cernua* when it is in its pure form.



Driving along Rt. 37, we came to East Lynn Lake. The left hand side of the road is a cut rock cliff in one area and on the right side a shoulder high rock flat with soil and ground pine on top. At the base of the cliff was a very wet ditch with

dozens and dozens of *Spiranthes cernua* much past prime bloom. On the right side of the flat were *Spiranthes ochroleuca* in prime bloom. This difference booming period is typical. We have seen *S. ochroleuca* in bloom in mid-November surrounded by snow.

Traveling the road to Skeen's Family Cemetery we saw many plants of *S. ochroleuca*. One atypical, three-ranked specimen was found. This country cemetery, again, was dotted among the markers with *S. ochroleuca*. We have all kinds of theories why they would grow in old cemeteries.. These areas have been slightly disturbed and are on hills that have good drainage. Normally they are fairly old and have moss covered areas. While well maintained they are probably only mowed a couple times a year at the correct time to permit these plants to prosper. These vertical, white-flowered plants seemed quite natural in the quiet reverence of a cemetery.

BACKYARDS AND ROADSIDES. Heading through Lincoln County and just past Hartz, WV we saw a ditch full of *S. cernua*. This area was also mowed all around the plants but it was too muddy and wet for the mower to get the places where the orchids grew. West Virginia ironically plants their roadsides with non-native plants at great expense and then mows some of their most beautiful vegetation that grows naturally along roadsides.

Our last stop in Boone County was at the home of an old friend of Bill Grafton, Linnie Coon. We took a tour of her "back yard" which is a wonderful nature trail. Linnie could not have been kinder to us. She was the combination of a gentle southern lady and a naturalist. She showed us a picture of a 48 inch rattlesnake that had crawled past her property recently. We also saw *Spiranthes ochroleuca*, *Aplectrum hymale*, *Liparia lilifolia* and *Tipularia discolor* on her nature walk.

Many of the orchids we saw were county records, and most were first time sightings for all of us in these counties.

While we possibly could have seen more orchids on this trip we had a truly great time. If people want a botanical record of the trip, Bill Grafton with his wealth of botanical knowledge can tell them what plants, other than orchids, are of interests in this area.

As you can see, very good botanizing can be done right up to the snow covering the ground. I hope this becomes one of your favorite times as it has become for we - orchid aficionados.

THREE CHEERS TO THE FOREST SERVICE, SEN ROCKEFELLER, JOHN CRITES AND THE GOV FOR PROTECTING A PORTION OF THE BLACK WATER CANYON. And especially to those who wrote or spoke peaceably for its protection!!

1998 WVNPS OFFICERS

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: 304/293-4797 x2493

TREASURER: DONNA FORD-WERNTZ

West Virginia University
POB 6057
Morgantown, WV 26506-6057
work phone: 304/293-5201 x 2549
home phone: 304/291-5820

RECORDING SECRETARY GAY BROWN

2 Geary Road
South Charleston, WV 25303-2730
home phone: 304/744-8344 work phone: 304/344-5800
e-mail mcushner@aol.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

KEITH SEARLS

608 13th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701-3228
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

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: KENNETH H. ANDERSON

2042 Weberwood Drive
South Charleston, WV 25303-3029
home phone: 304/344-1446

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: P.J. HARMON

182 Summit Street
Elkins, WV 26241-4056
home phone: 304/636-6823 office: 304/637-0245

EDITOR NATIVE NOTES: EMILY GRAAFTON

456 West Virginia Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26505
304/292-0229

MEMBERSHIP 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. _____

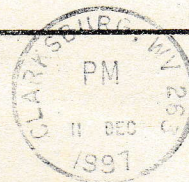
I wish to make an additional contribution to the WVNPS in the amount of _____.

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

WVNPS

PO Box 75403

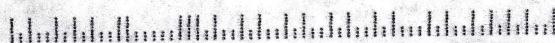
Charleston, WV 25375-0403



**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER is February 15.
CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR DUES DEADLINE!**

056123/29999

33



Excellent Food and Cover

Native Shrubs

...in wildlife landscaping

Published by

West Virginia Native Plant Society
West Virginia Nongame Wildlife Program



Early Low Blueberry
Vaccinium angustifolium

BLUEBERRIES

Squaw Huckleberry, Buckberry or Deerberry - *Vaccinium stamineum*

Sourtop (Velvetleaf Blueberry) - *V. myrtilloides*

Late Low (Early Sweet) Blueberry - *V. vacillans*

Early Low (Lowbush) Blueberry - *V. angustifolium*

Upland Low (Pale) Blueberry - *V. pallidum*

Highbush (Swamp) Blueberry - *V. corymbosum*

Form: **Blueberries in general:** Leaves are alternate, simple small elliptic, deciduous or persistent. Twigs are slender, reddish or greenish, covered with many raised warts and often zigzag. Flowers bloom in spring or early summer and are small greenish-white or pinkish. Fruits are edible, often blue or blue-black and contain many small seeds.

Twigs and Bark: **Squaw Huckleberry** - Much branched shrub to 5 feet tall with hairy twigs.
Sourtop - Dense, flat-topped shrub to 3 feet tall, crowded branches that are very hairy.
Late Low - Open shrub to 3 feet tall, forming colonies.
Early Low - Open shrub to 2 feet tall, forming dense extensive colonies.
Upland Low - Open, straggling shrub to 2 feet tall, twigs are smooth.
Highbush - Tall shrub of variable appearance, often flat-topped, to 12 feet tall (usually 6 to 8 feet).

Leaves: **Squaw Huckleberry** - 1 to 3 inches long, slightly hairy or smooth, whitened beneath.
Sourtop - 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches long, smooth margin, velvety above and beneath.
Late Low - 1/2 to 2 inches long, dull green above and whitish beneath, older leaves often leathery.

Early Low - 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches long, sometimes pale or hairy beneath (usually smooth), small teeth on margin, narrowly elliptic.

Upland Low - 1 1/2 to 2 inches long, green beneath, small teeth on margin, veiny pattern.

Highbush - 1 1/2 to 3 inches long, green and hairy beneath (sometimes pale beneath).

Fruit: **Squaw Huckleberry** - Green or yellow, juicy, sour and tough skinned, June-July.

Sourtop - Blue, sour but of good flavor, July-August.

Late Low - Blue, sweet, June-July.

Early Low - Bright blue, excellent flavor, June-July

Upland Low - Dark blue or black, July.

Highbush - Blue to black, covered with whitish powder, sweet, July-August.

NATURAL HABITAT:

Squaw Huckleberry - Dry woods, thickets, clearings and old fields.

Sourtop - Swamps or moist woods and clearings, frequent on high open mountaintops.

Late Low - Dry, open woods and heath barrens at higher elevation.

Early Low - Dry open rocky or sandy soil, common on heath barrens at higher elevations.

Upland Low - Dry upland woods and thickets, uncommon in W.Va.

Highbush - Swampy and glady low woods, riverbanks and dry uplands.

HORTICULTURE:

Uses: Squaw Huckleberry and Highbush Blueberry useful as specimen, borders, or group plantings. Other Blueberries used as ground covers.

Light: Full sunlight.

Soil Moisture: Moist to dry with Sourtop and Highbush preferring moist to wet, well-drained soils.

Soil pH: Very acid to moderately acid.

Problems: Blueberries are attacked by several insects and diseases, but a regular spray program will easily control any problems. Chlorosis (yellowing of leaves) is common if the soil is not sufficiently acidic.

WILDLIFE USES:

Blueberry fruits are very important food for grouse, bobwhite, turkey, mourning dove and numerous songbirds such as thrushes, bluebird and scarlet tanager. Animals such as black bear, foxes, rabbit, skunk, fox squirrel and chipmunk readily eat fruit, twigs and leaves of blueberries. Deer will eat the fruits and browse twigs and leaves.

The dense colonies of low blueberries provide shelter and nest sites for many smaller mammals and birds such as grouse, junco, rabbit and chipmunks. Blueberries are overall very important for food and cover for wildlife.

COMPILED BY: LINNIE COON, outdoor writer and naturalist, Comfort, West Virginia

Written by West Virginia Native Plant Society members and jointly published with the WV Nongame Program

Illustration from Flora of West Virginia, Strausbaugh and Core