WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 6, Number 3

December, 1999

OTES

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Cedar Lakes, December 4, 1999

NATIVE

The Board of Directors managed to complete another marathon three-hour session with much accomplished. This report is an attempt to relay highlights of the work-in-progress, accomplishments and needs of the West Virginia Native Plant Society.

One new *Board Member at-large* was elected. Daniel Stevenson of Lavelette, Wayne County will replace Pat Barker whose term expires 12/31/99. Dan's term will run through 2003. Ken Anderson will be leaving the Board.

Ken and Jane are retiring to wonderful new Recording upcoming marriage and move Recording Secretary will be

We wish to express a great-big participation on the Board. how much you will be missed in The effects of your years of inspiration through *The West Bird Club* will pass on through face and careful notation will be And last, but not least Pat, we PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ANNUAL DUES. December 31 is the official due date. Dues not received by February 1 will automatically remove you from the mailing list after that date. Hendersonville, North Carolina. Our Secretary, Martha Walter, announced her to Michigan. As of January, the job of vacant again, as well as Ken's position.

welcome to Daniel and look forward to your Ken and Jane there are no words to express the community of *weed pickers* and *birders*. conservation-minded, joyful, hard work and *Virginia Native Plant Society* and *The Brooks* generations to come. Martha, your smiling missed. Best wishes to you in your new life. hope to see you at our annual meetings in the

future and back on the Board at some future date. Thanks again to each one of you.

At last, a final revision of the new recruitment brochure was approved. A thousand copies will be printed for distribution. We explored some ideas about locations to place the brochures including Tamarack, visitors centers along Interstate Highways, libraries and schools. If you would be willing to place some brochures in a location within or near your community, please contact Bill Grafton.

Donna Ford-Werntz initiated a project with the State Division of Highways to establish a plot for native plants along an Interstate Highway. Chris Gatens with the Kanawha Valley Chapter and Romie Hughart with the Tri-State Chapter had previously volunteered to locate a demonstration plot within their respective chapters. They are working to recruit volunteers to help with the site preparation and seed sowing. They will coordinate the volunteers and maintenance of the plots. Donna has finalized the seed mixture of native grasses and perennials with Ernst Conservation Seeds, the company we will be purchasing from. We owe a big thanks to Anna Shahan, with DOH for her efforts in seeing this project become a possibility.

One plot will be located on I-64 near St. Albans and the other one next to a rest stop near Huntington. The seed mixtures will be broadcast this spring. Do not expect a brightly-colored filled meadow the first year. Full plot establishment with native perennials and grasses usually takes two to three years. However, once established; these plots will not require fertilizers, pesticides or re-sowing every spring. They may need to be cut every other fall,

but some experimentation will be a necessary part of this project. We expect to learn a lot and be able to transfer what we learn to expand the number of native plantings over the next several years.

Emily Grafton discussed another idea with Rob Gilligan, Superintendant of Blackwater Falls State Park on a native plant landscaping project. A large wing has been added to the park lodge leaving an area that will need some landscaping. We can assist with the landscape design and selection of native species for the site. Some of us agreed to make a field day to assist with planting.

Bill Grafton suggested that the Society organize a project to recognize the botanists who have worked in the state over the past millennium. We will attempt to identify the top 100 West Virginia botanists (professional, amateur, naturalists, authors, writers, educators and others) who have contributed to the knowledge of the state's flora and/or who have educated others about our native plants. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

> The Board agreed on a tentative schedule for some major events for the year 2000. April 8, 2000 - Board Meeting and Field Trip at Flatwoods May 20, 2000- Field trip to Ice Mountain July 8, 2000 - Board Meeting and Field Trip, Cedar Lakes September 8, 2000 - Annual Meeting Camp Anthony Greenbrier County, alternate date September 16 (confirmation in next newsletter) February 28, 2000 - Deadline for submission to next newsletter

EXECUTIVE ORDER #13112 on

INVASIVE PLANTS By: Emily Grafton

On February 8, 1999, President Clinton signed Executive Order number 13112. A condensed narrative from that document which defines invasive species follows:

"By the authority vested in me as President by the constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969....Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990...Lacey Act....Federal Plant Pest Act....Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, Endangered Species Act of 1973, and other pertinent statutes, to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause, it is ordered as follows.

I will not attempt to reproduce the full document here, but would like to summarize the major points and pose some of the opportunities and conflicts that have to be addressed before ongoing-sustainable solutions can be implemented.

Several plant-related terms that many of us have found difficult to qualify with a simple definition, have been defined in the order. For example, alien species has been defined as "Alien species means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem." Native species is even more loosely defined as "Native species means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem." Invasive species is defined as "Invasive species means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

We could have hours of discussions about the multitude of exceptions and ecological considerations that these narrow definitions do not include, including the natural migrations of plants and how to classify plants transported

by people over the last 10,000 years that have become naturalized outside of the ecosystem they evolved in. However, the executive order is a good start at addressing the growing problems of invasive alien/exotic species. A major directive of the order was the establishment of a National Invasive Species Council to provide leadership regarding the implementation of the order. Part of the Council's order is to encourage planning and action at the local, tribal, state, regional and ecosystem levels. It is especially encouraging to see "ecosystem level" as an important consideration. The council is to present a management plan to the Presidents office sometime around July of 2000. Each state is supposed to have a State Invasive Species Council. Following is a brief sketch of some of the major directives of the order:

- 1. prevent introduction of invasive species
- 2. detect & control populations of invasive species in cost-effective & environmentally sound means (which comes first, or are both considerations equal?)
- 3. monitor invasive species populations
- 4. provide for restoration of native species
- 5. conduct research
- 6. not authorize, fund or carry out action that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species

As you can see from this simple summary, that this is one "tall order." In addition to the National Council, several states have established *Exotic Pest Plant Councils* to study the problems and to design education materials and programs and find ways to implement solutions. People in the mid-Atlantic States have formed a *Mid-Atlantic Exotic Plant Pest Council*. This group has met several times, and are actively organizing education programs and working hard to solidify the organization.

The Federal Highway Administration has established guidelines for state highway departments to follow in regard to EO13112. For example, where there is a use of Federal Funds or work is to be done on federal highway lands, funds cannot be used for construction, revegetation or landscaping with known invasive species. The commission encourages states to:

- determine existing and adjacent invasive species along their highway corridors
- develop weed prevention and control strategies like the use of certified weed-free mulches, soils, and seed mixes
- begin a statewide inventory of the extent and spread of invasive species
- a statewide vegetation management plan

West Virginia DOH is already at work on all of the above. However, many more species than the current list of nine species needs to be added to the state "noxious weed list." Including species that are in standard seed mixes used by DEP. The next issue of Native Notes will have an update on who is doing what in West Virginia to tackle the problems of invasive species.

For more information on the Federal Highway Administration's work on invasive species, you can visit their website address at fhwa.dot.gov/environment/veg mgt.

SHINE ON HARVEST MOON

By: Barry Glick

Since there was not much flowering in October, I turned my eyes skyward and watched for this year's Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon is the full moon nearest the time of the September equinox. The term was introduced to the English Language in 1706, and this year's Harvest Moon occurred on September 25th.

This years harvest moon was accompanied in its passage across the night sky by the planet Jupiter.

Jupiter is the brightest object other than the moon in the October night skies. In the early evening it's in the southwest, and remains visible almost all night, setting in the west just prior to sunrise.

On earth, it was a true harvest as most of the late Spring and Summer wildflowers had ripened their seeds. I collected the brilliant red berries of *Smilacena racemosa*, false Solomon's Seal, and washed the seeds out of the berries under coldrunning water in a colander. The deer seemed to have gotten most of them, but they left enough to

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collect and plant. I sow the seeds in a place where I want them to establish or in pots placed outside in the woods. In either case, I cover them with a thickness of soil equal to their height and hope that some critter doesn't get them before they germinate.

The seeds of the great Solomon's seal, Polygonatum canaliculatum are ripe. I remember the first time I came across this imposing, striking plant. I was driving down a back road, coming around a bend. As I approached, they seemed to beckon like a group of very tall, almost human like figures, standing on the bank of the hillside leaning slightly toward the road, insisting that I stop and commune with them. Well, that was many years ago and I'm pleased to report we've become quite intimate in the interim. The common name says it all about this plant. It's easy to grow and makes a dramatic statement in the wild garden. Heights are variable depending on the age of the plant and the growing conditions, but they can rise to over 7 feet tall in a part shade and moist soil with lots of organic matter.

I know the correct botanical name may seem like a mouthful to pronounce, but if you repeat it slowly a few times it has a nice flow that seems to roll off the tongue. Where do these long scientific names come from and what do they mean??? Well, in this case the Family is Liliaceae, or the Lily family and the genus is Polygonatum, the word Polygonatum is a derivation from Greek, that broken down contains the following secret message, poly from polys which means many and gonatum from gonu, the Greek word for knee. All of this seeming mumbo jumbo refers to, in this case, a physical attribute of the rootstock of the plant. That being the fact, the rootstock has many joints. The species name or specific epithet, canaliculatum means channeled.

The common name for this genus of plants comes from scars on the roots and their resemblance to a Royal Seal and the romantic notion that wise King Solomon of 10th Century BC Israel, who was thought to be knowledgeable in medicinal plants, gave this plant his "seal of approval." The leaves were thought to have contraceptive properties when taken as a tea, but hey kids, don't try this at home. The crushed root is also believed to heal the black and blue symptoms of injuries and wounds.

Native Americans crushed the roots of Solomon's Seal and made a flour. They also pickled the roots. According to Wild Food Foragers, the roots and shoots are edible when gathered very early in the Spring.

Not to be neglectful, but with the magnificence and powerful presence of the above species, I forgot to mention the other two species of Polygonatum that are native in these here mountains, in fact they're found in virtually every county in the state. Polygonatum biflorum and Polygonatum pubescens are smaller than Polygonatum canaliculatum, but are every bit as useful in the garden and every bit as attractive and desirable. The name Polygonatum biflorum should be easy enough to figure out, they have two flowers. By the way, the easiest, most reliable way to distinguish the difference between "True Solomon's Seal" and "False Solomon's Seal" is the floral arrangement. "False Solomon's Seal", Smilacena racemosa has a plume of flowers at the terminal end of the plant, while the "True Solomon's Seal", Polygonatum species always have pendulous flowers along the stem. The foliage of both genera (The plural of the word genus, I used to say genuses, a botanical no-no) can be somewhat similar in appearance and they're both in the Liliaceae (Lily) Family. Anyway back to the other two species Polygonatum biflorum is much smaller, about 12"-36" in height and as I said has flowers in pairs as opposed to Polygonatum canaticulatum which is much taller and has flowers in clusters of 2 - 10. Polygonatum pubescens refers to the downy peach fuzz that can found on the undersides of the leaves of this species and is similar in size and shape to Polygonatum biflorum

So there you have it All About Solomon's Seals in one easy lesson. All in all they make great gardenplants, both the false and the true. Enjoy them and all of the other incredible plants that grow here in one of the most botanically rich areas in the universe. Happy Plant Hunting,

You can reach Barry at THE CYBER-

PLANTSMAN, a free Internet on-line magazine for serious gardeners.

http://www.gardenweb.com/sunshine or http://www.gardenweb.com/sunshine□ With advance notice, he welcomes visitors to his Sunshine Farm & Gardens Nursery where over 10,000 different hardy plants are cultivated and sold to the public.

Barry can be reached at 304-497-2208, by FAX at 304-497-2698 or by

E-Mail at HYPERLINK mailto:barryg@slip.net

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Romie Hughart:

Porter Camp Hollow to Polly Hollow On July 24, 13 members of the Kanawha Valley and Tri-State Chapters explored from Porter Camp Hollow to Polly Hollow. The group did not locate vellow-fringed orchids, which was a prime objective. The following list of plants in flower were identified.

Fall phlox Cardinal flower Turk's cap Lilv White avens Tall bell flower Self heal Great mullein Yellow wood sorrel Daisy fleabane Indian tobacco Deptford pink Dwarf St. John's-wort Seedbox White vervain Monkey flower Rough cinquefoil Smartweed Cutleaf coneflower Pokeweed Birdsfoot trefoil False nettle Rattlesnake plantain Hoary mountain-mint Starry campoin Hog peanut Goldenrod Wild hydrangea Spikenard Naked tick-trefoil Small wood sunflower Wild potato vine Queen Anne's lace Leafy spurge Winged monkey flower Common St. John's Wort Hypericum perforatum

Phlox maculata Lobelia cardinalis Lilium superbum Geum canadense Campanula americana Prunella vulgaris Verbascum thapsus Oxalis europea Erigeron annuus Lobelia inflata Dianthus armeria Hupericum mutilum Ludwigia alternifolia Verbena utricifolia Mimulus ringens Potentilla norvegica Polygonum spp. Rudbeckia laciniata Phytolacca americana Lotus corniculatus Boehmeria cylindrica Goodyera pubescens Pycnanthemum incanum Silene stellata Amphicarpa bracteata Solidago spp. Hydrangea arborescens Aralia racemosa Desmodium nudiflorum Helianthus microcephalus Ipomoea pandurata Daucus carota Euphorbia esula Mimulus alatus

Steven D. Mace

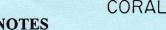
Blister Swamp Field Trip

On August 1, 1999 members of the Kanawha Valley Chapter traveled to Pocahontas County for a field trip to Blister Swamp. Listed below are the plants noted by one or more members as being rare.

flowering, or in other ways, noteworthy. An asterisk has been placed next to the common name of those plants flowering at the time. The nomenclature follows that of the Flora of West Virginia by Strausbaugh and Core, second edition.

Lycopodium inundatum Dryopteris cristata Pteridium aquilinum Abies balmsamea Picea rubens Eriophorum virginicum Maianthemum canadense Habenaria clavellata Populus tremuloides Alnus rugosa Coptis groenlandicum Drosera rotundifolia Saxifraga micranthidifolia Spiraea tomentosa Geum rivale Impatiens capensis Rhamnus alnifolia Hypericum densiflorum Cornus canadensis Gaultheria hispidula Polemonium van-bruntiae Verbena hastata Diervilla lonicera Viburnum cassinoides

FIELD NOTES



By: Bill Grafton, Field Notes Editor

CLETE SMITH, AL SHRIVER & SCOTT SHRIVER

Corallorrhiza ordontorhiza (Autumn Coralroot) in moist woods on Rock Run, 10/30/99, Doddridge County.

Aplectrum hyemale (Puttyroot) in moist beech woods on Warrior Fork northwest of Rymer, 11/27/99, Marion County.

BERNIE CYRUS

Cleistes bifara (Spreading Pogonia) in dry oak blueberry woods of Cabwaylingo State Forest, 6/27/98, Wayne County Silene rotundifolia (Roundleaf Catchfly) cliff overhang on Lost Creek, 6/27/98, Wayne County.

DAVE SAVILLE

Abies fraseri (Fraser Fir) Numerous seedlings established along Highland Scenic Highway between

CORALLORHIZA odontorhiza Cranberry Visitor's Center and Williams River, 1996, Pocahontas County.

BILL GRAFTON

Webster CountyPrunus nigra(CanadaPlum) fencerows and roadsides along Egypt Road near Divide, 4/24/99, Fayette County. Buxus sempervirens (Boxwood) Moist woods at Parkersburg YWCA, 10/13/99, Wood County. Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (Porcelainberry) Wooded ravines at Parkersburg YWCA, 10/13/99, Isoetes engelmanni (Quillwort) pond at Coopers Rock State Forest, 9/3/95, Monongalia County. Sagittaria engelmanniana (Arrowhead) aquatic in Big Ditch lake, Webster County; 6/12/99

ELEANOR BUSH

Lygodium palmatum (Climbing Fern) Openings on farm between Gore and Hepzibah, 8/30/92, Harrison County.

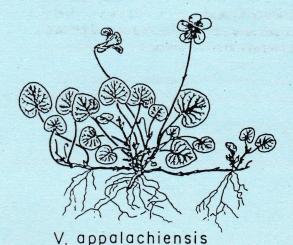
Elodea nuttallii (Nuttall's Waterweed) Aquatic in Teter Creek Lake, 9/23/91, Barbour County. Viola septentrionalis (Northern Blue Violet) Rocky ledge on Hunter Fork Road, 4/24/99, Barbour County.

Milium effusum (Millet Grass) Roadside of WV Route 38, 6/18/94, Barbour

USING NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

By: Emily Grafton

Canaan Valley Institute will be hosting a symposium on native plants. Conservation oriented people, government agency personnel, private and public land managers, landscape architects, growers, home gardeners and many others will want to come and learn about the most recent technologies and products related to the protection and utilization of native plants. Local and regional experts from several disciplines will be presenting on several topics. See next page.



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OLD GROWTH FORESTS OF WEST VIRGINIA

By: Bill Grafton

In pre-Colonial times, the 15 million acres of West Virginia were almost entirely forested. A few prairies existed along the bigger rivers. Some open bogs were in the high mountains and a few grass balds grew on exposed mountain tops. There might still be a dozen or so old growth tracts totaling 2500 acres. The remainder has been cut if not once, several times. Four of these old growth areas occur at Gaudineer Knob, Koontz Bend, Cathedral SP and Carnifax Ferry State Park.

Gaudineer Knob is located in Pocahontas County and is a pie-slice shaped area of 140 acres caused by a surveyor's error. The old growth area once consisted of a beautiful stand of virgin red spruce (18-30 inches in diameter and over 120 feet tall), large beech and some yellow birch trees. Blowdown and timber salvage had affected 2/3rds of the area before the US Forest Service set Gaudineer aside as a natural/recreational area in 1964. In the late 1980s, the dreaded beech bark disease spread to the area and soon the large beech were rotting on the forest floor. This change affected the red spruce, and by the 1990s most of them had died and fallen or were giant dead snags. A beautiful monument to the original red spruce forests was in disarray.

Koontz Bend is a large horseshoe bend in Gauley River in Fayette County. A railroad crosses the river on the north side of the bend and immediately tunnels through the mountain. This tunnel and several cliffs have made access to the mountainside virtually impossible. Among the dense rhododendron thickets are several giant hemlock, red maple and black birch trees that escaped the ax and saw at the turn of the century.

Cathedral State Park in Preston County is 126 acres of virgin hemlock with scattered beech, yellow birch, white oak, red oak, and black cherry. Dense rhododendron thickets form the understory in many areas. The forest once contained horseback riding trails for the popular Brookside summer resort. Branson Haas, a resort laborer eventually bought the area in 1922. He sold it to the state to protect the forest from the "galdarned timberman" who wanted to cut the 7 million board feet of timber. It contains WV's largest hemlock tree and is a monument to the deep love and concern of Branson Haas for the trees he so revered.

Carnifex Ferry State Park is known for the Civil War battlefield. Hidden along the eastern boundary in Pierson Hollow is a 50-plus acre area of virgin forest. The largest trees are mostly hemlock, but there are several beautiful yellow poplar, white oak, and red oak. Dense rhododendron thickets are along the stream and trail. This is one of the nicer virgin areas left in West Virginia.

Other known old growth areas are:

- North Fork of Anthony Creek- white pine stand
- Lick Creek near Danville- Yellow poplar woods
- Laurel Run on Coopers Rock- hemlock stand
- Murphy Preserve near Pennsboro- mixed oak forest
- Are there others? Will you write a paragraph or two about areas you know? Let the editor hear from you.

EDITORIAL

By: Ro.nie Hughart

Invasion or Migration

Invasive plants are those defined as those plants that move from an area of a certain character into one of a different character, and then they colonize the latter. Of course this may mean the elimination of other plant species. One must realize that invasion of plants will not occur unless environmental conditions are correct. Therefore, rather than invasion, maybe it should be called migration.

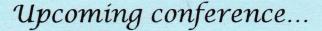
Migration is the spread from one localized area to another larger area. Migration is a normal process of nature. Man has extended the process by transporting plants from one continent to another. Maybe we should not consider these plants as invasives, to be eliminated. Why not think of this migration of plants as part of a normal process known as natural selection.

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USING NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE... Issues & Opportunities

March 21 through 23, 2000 Canaan Valley State Park, West Virginia

The benefits of our native flora have often been overlooked. However, a revolution is sweeping the nation in the way we approach landscaping lawns, golf courses, and parklands, and how we restore disturbed lands. The revolution involves the efforts to re-introduce Native Plant species into our landscapes. Native Plant Nurseries are popping up like mushrooms and yet the availability of woody and herbaceous plant stock is still lacking. A huge economic opportunity exists in the growing demand. As we move forward, many issues need to be sorted through and our efforts need to be carefully analyzed and monitored. Please join us for this two day symposium. The following topics will be explored with input from several local and regional experts, and valuable information will be made available.

- Techniques for landscaping with Native Plants
- Ower with the Wheel of the W
- Other How to propagate Native Plants
- ◊ Bio-engineering

Fringetree

- Vays Invasives spread
- Other How to harvest and process Native Plant seeds
- Managing Invasive Plants along our highways and other corridors ...

- Ecological Value of Native Plants
 Riparian Buffer zones
 Controlling Invasive Exotics
 NRCS Plant Materials Center
- Regulatory Information
- ◊ and More...

To get registration information and learn more about the conference and co-sponsors:

Climbing Fern

Contact Canaan Valley Institute 1-800-922-3601

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