NATIVE NOTES

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 8, Number 2 August 2001

WVNPS ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15 – 16

NORTH BEND STATE PARK

Meet: Saturday Morning, Sept 15 in the lobby of North Bend State Park Lodge at 9:30 AM.
Morning and afternoon outings to nearby sites are being planned.
The Board Meeting will be held from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the Lodge

For lodging: contact North Bend State Park 1/800-callwva during the day.
If the Park Lodge is full, the Heritage Inn (1-800/528-7944) is just five miles away.
North Bend State Park phone day/evening 304/643-2931

Contact Romie Hughart 304/429-7358 for more details about field trips and agenda.

lunch money or bring lunch
Walk am Walk p.m 8:15 slide show

BIOLOGICAL INVADERS

By: Emily Grafton

"Today, around the globe, shrunken fragments of once-awesome wilderness are hemmed in by human-dominated land. Now it is our activities, including our gardens, that threaten natural areas." Janet Marinelli

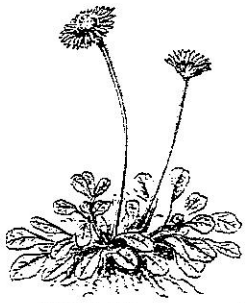
The attitudes and behaviors of the first waves Of European invaders, established the premise that nature was an ominous enemy to be conquered. As a result of this thinking, we have cut down and burned away forests, dammed rivers and *landscraped* millions of acres to make way for monocultures of turf-grasses and concrete from sea to shining sea. But now, the tables have turned. As a result of habitat destruction and exotic species introductions, native plant communities have been diminished and thousands of species of native plants are facing extinction.

The earliest European settlers brought many plants with them. They brought ornamental flowers, grain, vegetable and fruit seeds to plant. Botanical medicines that were standards in their medicine cabinets were brought as well. Over the past several

hundred years, many of these medicinal and ornamental plants have spread across the country and become naturalized. Plants like coltsfoot, jimsonweed, dandelion, daylily and many more are so entrenched that we pay them no heed.

The majority of the thousands of exotic plants introduced to the continental United States have been beneficial. So, what is the big deal about exotic species? Approximately 4,000 species of exotic plants (Kartesz and Morse 1997) have established free-living populations in the United States. However, at least 300 species of exotic plant species have been identified as a threat to natural ecosystems as a result of their aggressive, invasive characteristics. And, less than 100 of these plants cause billions of dollars of losses to agricultural crops every year.

Exotic species become a big deal when they become invasive. Establishing a free-living population is the first step in that process. It is often difficult to know how or when a free-living exotic plant species may become invasive. However, if and when an exotic species develops rapid growth and begins to spread over large areas, it generally has few natural controls and can pose serious threats once it has become established.



BELLIS perennis

Scientists have studied invasive plants and compiled a list of characteristics that usually indicate whether or not an introduced plant may become invasive. They include the following:

- Displays rapid growth and spread
- Free from the vast and complex array of natural controls present in native habitats
- Strong vegetative growth
- Abundant seed production
- High seed germination rate
- Long-living seeds
- Rapid maturation to a sexually reproductive stage
- Rapid reproduction
- Their copious growth allows them to overrun/displace native vegetation

We can no longer just pay lip service to the issues surrounding invasive species. We need to do some outreach, some education and do what we can to encourage the citizens of our state to actively avoid planting any species determined to be invasive. We need to set an example by organizing "Weed Warrior" weekends, where we tackle the removal of invasive species from a park or public area allowing the native vegetation to come back or revegetate if necessary.

Volunteers in Maryland and Virginia have been working hard to educate the public. Many of the educational materials that they have prepared would be available to us to distribute. We also need to support the ***Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council*** (MA-EPPC). Please read the brochure included in your newsletter that outlines the mission and objectives of the organization.

A CALL TO ACTION –
(With a soft touch)

Kerrie Kyde, President of the MA-EPPC facilitated a chat session on invasive plants at the Millersville Native Plant Symposium in June. Nearly 50 people attended this session. The discussions were spirited and the participants raised a wide spectrum of

questions and provided informative answers. Of course, there were plenty of questions relative to this issue that seem to have no answer.

A question that I raised was how do we get information to people who are not asking? People with that mindset comprise a huge majority of the population within the boundaries of our state. With mountain-top removal, degrading water quality, timbering and strip development, enough already! Who can handle more bad news?

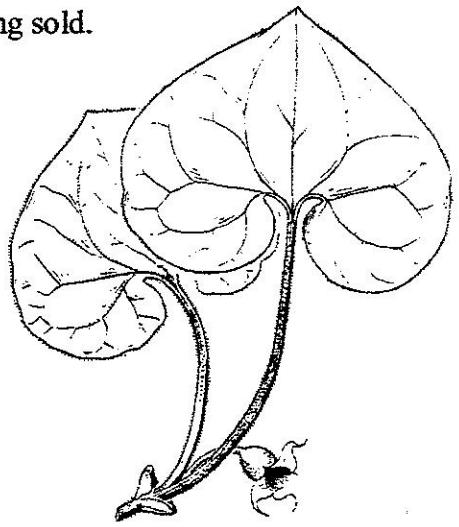
However, one cheerful lady suggested some strategies that her organization has initiated, and they are working. I would like to ask each of you to make a pledge to yourself to take a few steps to implement just two of these strategies.

We know that there are several sources from which invasive exotic plant species escape into our landscape. One of the most problematic is the horticultural industry. Now this is not to propose that horticulturists are planting invasive species intentionally. Many exotic species pose no threat to our natural ecosystems. Unfortunately many highly invasive species are being sold.

When plants are your livelihood, you are not too likely to stop selling a big moneymaker based on an abstract idea. However, if native species were available as alternatives, and people were requesting those plants, then, in time, sales of invasive exotics would decline. The problem is that many of our native shrubs, trees and perennial flowers are not available through the nursery trade, though this is starting to change. And, the factor leading to the change is – demand.

In a market-driven economy, product availability generally follows a change in supply or demand. We have the ability to make that happen. The two things you can do to get the ball rolling in West Virginia follows.

Go to your local nursery and make a list of the top five or ten plant species that are being sold that have been identified as series invasive exotics, for example, cotoneaster, English ivy, winged burning bush, purple loosestrife, oriental bittersweet or porcelain-berry. Then, come up with a list of two or three native species that make excellent alternatives to the invasive exotics that are being sold.



ASARUM canadense

Go back to the nursery by late fall and request that the nursery carry at least one of the species you have selected as an alternative for next spring. Get as many of your friends as you can do the same. You may even encourage the members of a local garden club to become involved. Come up with a top ten list of plants, a few for ground covers for shade, for example (*Asarum, Galax, Mitchella)*, flowering shrubs (*Coeonothus americanus, Viburnum acerifolium, Aruncus)*, trees (*Sassafras, Viburnum spp, Ilex, Amelanchior, Cercis)*; for vines (*Lonicera semperiverens, Parthenocissus, native Clematis)*. The above are just a few examples. You might want to use the catalogue of a native plant

nursery for ideas of plants that are making an entry into the nursery trade.

The success will come with a large number of people requesting the same plants, and it may take a few seasons. However, once you have initiated a positive dialogue with the local nursery or lawn and garden center, then you might begin requesting that they no longer stock those plants that have become detrimental to the environment. Start with only one or three at most. Give them fact sheets on the species. And, of course get your critical mass of people from the community to do the same. And, do not hesitate to take on Wal Mart or Lowe's. They are the big ones.

SOME NOTES FROM – Lynn Wagner

-Here's an updated list of invasives from the alien work group of the Plant Conservation Alliance. Compiled by Jill Swearingen. http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm.

--Over 3,300 forestry images of more than 800 insects,
Diseases, plants, wildlife, and management practices taken by over 150
Photographers are available at http://www.ForestryImages.org/. Multiple levels of jpeg format images are downloadable and may be copied and used for any non-profit, educational purpose with appropriate credit and copyright notice. Although most images are North American in nature, the system also contains images of organisms that are "Non-U.S. Natives", or are considered to be "U.S. Invasives". The images are in this system to be used! ForrestryImages.org utilizes a fully searchable, relational database-driven system to track and provide scientific, descriptive and photographic credit information. Several search and browse options are
available to help locate images, including: scientific and common names, and "key word" searches of descriptive information about the image.
ForestryImages.org is an ongoing project supported by The USDA Forest Service.

INFESTATIONS OF SELECTED NATIVE And EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES ON WV HIGHWAY RIGHTS-of-WAY
By: William N. Grafton

Numerous introduced and exotic plants have invaded West Virginia's landscape. Several species have become too pervasive to exterminate or effectively control over widespread areas. Species at the top of the list includes tree-of-heaven, multiflora rose, Morrow's honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese knotweed, Chinese yam, Kentucky 31 fescue and garlic mustard and crown vetch.

A study to locate and collect data on invasive plant infestations along WV's highways was initiated during the year 2000 growing season. Invasive plants that are already pervasive were not considered. The aim of this study was to establish baseline data on those species with low distribution. A list of targeted species was compiled on the basis they might still be controlled or eliminated.

Approximately 400 infestation sites were located statewide, with Monongalia (56),

Wood (26), Kanawha (21), Braxton (21), Fayette (17), Mineral (17) and Jackson (16) as the leading counties. Targeted species with the highest number of sites were narrow-leaved cattail (63), Kudzu (40), Cattail hybrid (Typha xglaucus) (30), tall thoroughwort (30), Amur honeysuckle (26), late-flowering thoroughwort (26), Japanese clematis (24), cinnamon vine (23) and common reed (21).

Three highly pervasive associated invasives that were used for road reclamation were noted, these included Kentucky 31 fescue, sericea lespedeza and crown vetch. Other widespread exotic invasives that are often associated include multiflora rose, teasel, white bedstraw, Japanese honeysuckle, Morrow's honeysuckle and smooth brome. Common natives invading roadsides were tall and Canada goldenrods, steelweed, boxelder, poison ivy, white ash, American elm and black locust.

Factors suspected to cause increased infestations in a particular county are:

- Older cities where landscape plants have and continue to escape
- Presence of major streams and rivers
- Presence of interstates or other 4-lane highways
- Presence of agriculture dependent on interstate commerce

It is hoped that some of the species targeted for this study, will be low enough to suppress and/or eradicate either statewide or regionally. Any control or extermination program would have to involve a coordinated effort of the WV Department of Highways, other state agencies, private organizations and many private landowners. Long term monitoring of known sites and new infestations will be absolutely necessary for any reasonable chance at controlling or exterminating invasive plants.

WVNPS SUMMER SCENIC-HIGHWAY FIELD TRIP

By: Sally Anderson

Cranberry Glades, June 30, 2001
West of Cranberry Glades along Route 39/55,
in wet ditches
Large purple fringed orchid *Habenaria fimbriata.*

In woods beside the parking area at the Cranberry
Glades Nature Center
Round leaved orchid – Habenaria orbiculata in bloom, and ragged fringed orchid *Habenaria lacera* in bud.

Across 39/55 from the entrance to Cranberry Glades Botanical Area
Violet wood sorrel - *Oxalis violacea* in bloom Partridge berry - *Mitchella repens* in bloom
Ferns, Intermediate shield fern - *Dryopteris intermedia* and probably an *Athyrium*
White monkshood - *Aconitum reclinatum* in bloom Plantain leaved sedge - *Carex plantaginea* Indian cucumber root - *Medeola virginiana* Rattlesnake plantain - *Goodyeara pubescens*

ANDROMEDA
glaucophylla

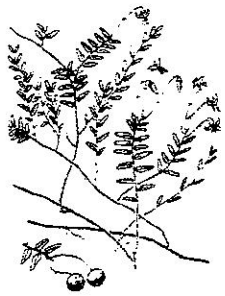
On the Cranberry Glades Boardwalk
Open bogs:
Snakemouth, beard-flower or rose pogonia – *Pogonia ophioglossoides* in bloom
Grass pink - *Calopogon pulchellus* in bloom
Pitcher plant - *Sarracenia purpurea* in bloom Small cranberry - *Vaccinium oxycoccos* in bloom Purple chokeberry - *Aronia melanocarpa* Bog rosemary - *Andromeda glaucophylla Carex rostrata* in bloom *Carex incomperta* in bloom
Cotton grass - *Eriophorum virginicum*
Swamp candle - *Lysimachia terrestris* in bloom Sundew - *Drosera rotundifolia*

Wooded areas:
Speckled alder - *Alnus rugosa*
Elderberry *Sambucus sp.*
Yellow birch *Betula lutea*
Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*
Maple *Acer sp.*
Mountain laurel *Kalmia latifolia* in bloom
Allegheny menziesia *Menziesia pilosa*
Long stalked holly *Ilex collina*

Bartram's serviceberry *Amelanchier bartraminia*
Wild raisin *Viburnum cassinoides*
Meehania *Meehania cordata* in bloom
Carex scabrata in bloom
Carex crinita (or C. histricina) in bloom
Mannagrass *Glyceria melicaria*
Fowl mannagrass *Glyceria striata*
Marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*

Tall meadow rue *Thalictrum polygamun* in bloom Yellow *clintonia Clintonia borealis*
Cinnamon fern - *Osmunda cinnamomea*
Sensitive fern Onoclea sensibilis
Skunk cabbage Symplocarpus foetidus
Jewelweed or Touch-me-not Impatiens sp.
False hellebore Veratrum viride
Cowbane Oxypolis rigidor
Painted trillium Trillium undulatumBlue monkshood Aconitum ucina
Jacob's ladder Polemonium van-bruntiae in bloom

OPEN GLADES
Water, water everywhere. Plants in the open glades have some things in common with plants of dry areas, such as small, thick or slightly curled leaves and much of the bog



V oxycoccos

does not support larger shrubs or trees. Although the ground is very wet, the high acidity of the water makes it difficult for plants to use, so for many species it is as if there was little water.
>
Most of the skunk cabbage plants we saw had been damaged by black bears, who Eat the heart of the plant when they come out of hibernation in the spring. It has been hypothesized that the plant acts as a purgative and after all that time in hibernation, maybe they need it.

Note: The above list is much abbreviated. If anyone wishes a complete list of all of the plants seen during the two days, contact the editor.

WVNPS BOARD MEMBERS

President
Romie Hughart
#6 Wellsworth Garden
Huntington, WV 25704
Phone: 304/429-7358 (h)
rch25704@yahoo.com

Vice
Vacant

Correspond Secretary
Mary Sansom
5324 Alspine Drive
Cross Lanes, WV 25313
Phone: 304/776-7852
Putnam@cnpapers.com

Treasurer
Steven Mace
PO Box 122
New Haven, WV 25265
Phone: 304/882-2450

Recording Secretary
Helen Gibbins
6128 Gideon Road
Huntington, WV 25705
Phone: 304/736-6387 (h)
Hgibbns@compaq.net

Sdmace@citynet.net

Director-at-large (99)
Dan Stevenson
115 Shamrock Drive
Lavalette, WV 25535
Phone: 304/523-9553

Shamrock@access.mountain.net

Director-At-large (00)
Lawrence Beckerle
PO Box 118
Craigsville, WV 26205
Phone: 304/458-2533

Lawrencebeckerle@yahoo.com

Director-At-large
Richard Thompson
5710 Pinecrest Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
Phone: 304/736-8833

Newsletter Editor
Emily Grafton
456 West Virginia Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26501
Phone: 304/292-0229
Egrafton@labyrinth.net

Past President
William Grafton
456 West Virginia Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26501
Phone: 304/293-4792 x2493
Wgrafton@wvu.edu

President Kanawha Valley Chapter
Christopher M. Gatens
Route 3, Box 130 B
Leon, WV 25123-9529
Phone: 304/458-2533

President Eastern Panhandle Chapter
Lynn Wagner
Rocky Marsh Road
PO Box 1268
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
Phone: 304/876-7027

Representative of Tri-State Chapter
T C Foose
713 10th Avenue
Huntington, WV
25703-2732
Phone: 304/525-4262

MEMBERSHIP REGISRATION COUPON

Please sign me up as a member of the WVNPS!

Name (s)_____ Phone:

(h)_____

Address_____

(w)_____

Membership Dues: The membership term is for one calendar year (Jan 1 - Dec 31)

_____ Regular Membership: $12.00 (membership for all members of a household)

_____ Student Membership: $8.00 (any student, college age or below)

_____ Life Membership: $200.00 (includes all members of a household)

Chapter membership: Kanawha Valley (Charleston) - $6; Tri-State (Huntington) - $5 * Must be a member of the state organization in order to join chapters.

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

Judi White
22 Wellesley Dr.
Washington WV 26181-9665

261 B1X 3663 02