



*Trifolium virginicum*

**KATE'S MOUNTAIN CLOVER**

BILL GRAFTON – Editor

**WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

Volume 16: 1

APRIL, 2008

**SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING: JAN. 2008 IN CHARLESTON**

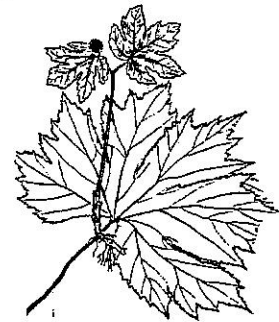
- Membership dues are slow coming in this year
- We will send out 3 issues of Native Notes during 2008
- Membership recruitment brochures are low and need reprinted
- Sales of T-shirts have broken even financially. We still have some for sale. Contact Chad Kirschbaum if you want to buy T-shirts
- We will sponsor the illustration of Kate's Mountain Clover in the **Flora of North America** series that are being published. WVNPS will have the right to use this illustration for official Society business.
- Our display and membership brochures will be on exhibit at the Wildlife Diversity Day at the WV Capitol, the WV Master Gardener Meeting in Charleston and the Blackwater Falls Wildflower Pilgrimage on Mother's Day weekend.
- We will write a letter of support for the DNR Natural Heritage Program
- The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> **NOON TO 4 PM** during the Lake Floyd bio-blitz located between Clarksburg and Salem

**Treasurer's Report as of February 9, 2008** By Donna Ford-Werntz

Checking Balance on September 2007 was \$2613

Checking Balance on Feb. 9, 2008 was \$4638

- This includes \$1770 transferred from City National Bank
- Peoples Bank CDs have been moved to United Bank
- Life Members \$3415
  - Eastern Panhandle NP (dormant chapter) \$2301



**Goldenseal**  
*Hydrastis canadensis*

**Summer board meeting and bio-blitz**

Dear WVNPS Board: As you consider your travel and lodging plans, note the details below from the Bio-blitz organizer. Donna Ford-Werntz

Lake Floyd, a community between Clarksburg and Salem on US Rt. 50, is planning a Bio-Blitz June 13, 14, 15, 2008. The goal is to count as many plant and animal species as possible in approximately 32 hours on the 700 acre property, which includes a 33 acre Lake, several streams, and a pond. The Lake Floyd Bio-Blitz is being undertaken as

an all-volunteer wildlife education project, to interest children and adults in the nature around them. The property has been divided into about 16 zones –mini-watersheds – based on streams as centerlines in each zone.

Additionally Taxa Teams (e.g., Reptiles, Amphibians, Trees, Fungi, Vascular Plants, Aquatic Insects, Birds, etc.) will be formed under supervision of professional biologists and botanists. We are looking for expert Taxa Team leaders, who can visit Lake Floyd for even a few hours to provide professional guidance.

The community has offered to provide extra bedrooms in homes for those experts who would have a long drive so they can stay Friday, Saturday or Sunday if they wish. Meeting rooms will be available at the Lake Floyd clubhouse, or other space available in the community. The Bio-Blitz organizers very much appreciate guidance from wildlife/nature professionals on structuring this effort. With field data forms from WVDNR and other sources, we intend to collect data useful to the scientific community. Please send comments and suggestions.

The Lake Floyd community is recruiting local Boy Scout troops (wildlife merit badges), 4-H Clubs and area Garden Clubs. The Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners programs have been contacted to participate. A Lake Floyd Biological Survey document resulting from the 2008 Bio-Blitz can act as a baseline study for future wildlife and nature projects on the property. The 2008 Lake Floyd Bio-Blitz is inspired by the life work of Dr. Edward O. Wilson, a leader of a world-wide effort to preserve diversity of forms of life, animals and plants, wildlife and habitat. A film on his life will be part of the Friday evening welcoming reception at the Lake Floyd clubhouse.

Tentative schedule and plan – subject to revision:

May/early June Sign-up sheets for Taxa Team participants will be posted at Lake Floyd to schedule and staff teams. Team leaders for zones will be assigned.

Friday June 13

Noon to 6:00 p.m. Participants arrive, check out the 700 acres to be surveyed. Set-up of picnic/staging area, tanks, cages, specimen containers. Team sign-ups continued and assigned for next day. Wildlife info displays and tables set up in ballroom.

6:00 p.m. - ?? Program of instruction to participants, recruitment of new members for participating nature organizations, time reserved for short presentations by any experts/Taxa Team Leaders who wish to speak, Nature documentary film(s) in cardroom, Nature Photo Contest display, children's activities. Light refreshments. Clubhouse restaurant open late.

9:00 p.m. until ?? Possible Owl Taxa Team nighttime survey team will go out.

Saturday June 14

Dawn – Taxa Teams and Zone Leaders may begin survey at their discretion.

7:45 a.m. Check-in tables at picnic area will be staffed beginning at 7:45 a.m. Plant and animal specimens will be brought in and recorded and digital photographs also permitted. Large scoreboard will record species totals hour by hour. All animals will be live-caught and returned to where they were found.

**(June bio-blitz con't)**

**WVNPS BOARD MEETING: NOON TO 4 pm**

Noon to 1:00 p.m. During lunch hour participants can change teams to get more variety of experience, and new participants assigned.

6:00 p.m. Covered dish dinner at clubhouse. Winners of pre-Bio-Blitz nature photography contest announced. Photos can be from any year, must be taken on Lake Floyd property.

10:30 p.m. All boats should come in.

10:45 p.m. Picnic/check-in staging area will close.

Night time Survey – Survey may continue into the night at the Dawn – Taxa Teams and Zone Leaders may begin survey at their discretion.

Sunday, June 15

7:45 a.m. Check-in tables at picnic area will be staffed beginning at 7:45 a.m. Plant and animal specimens will be brought in and recorded and digital photographs also permitted. Large scoreboard will record species totals hour by hour. All animals will be live-caught and returned to where they were found.

Noon to 1:00 p.m. During lunch hour participants can change teams to get more variety of experience, and new participants assigned.

4:00 p.m. Collecting should stop and all teams return to picnic/check-in area. Total of all species surveyed announced. Bio-Blitz nature photography contest announced. Photos must be taken during Bio-Blitz, on Lake Floyd property.

**Planning Stages**

The above schedule is subject to change, and we welcome all suggestions. Wonderful West Virginia magazine has been contacted about an article on Bio-Blitz, and we are seeking other ways to make this project useful to the nature/ scientific community in West Virginia. Please forward this information to any nature experts or professionals who might be interested in our project. For info please contact David Powell 202 387 1680, (at Lake Floyd 304 782 2018) wdp320@aol.com, Judy Schillace 304 782 1936, Judy Burns 304 782 2018.

**PLAN NOW FOR YOUR SPRING PLANTING**

Spring is here and it is time to plan what your needs will be for those warmer days of May when we like to dig in the soil. It might even help you to get on the web sites of our native plant nurseries. See what they have listed and get your plant list together. Some of the nurseries have catalogs that you can request and be sure to share with you friends, kin folk, and fellow native plant enthusiasts. Four of these are members of WVNPS: Elk Ridge Nature Works, LLC (Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell), Enchanter's Garden (Peter Heus), Porterbrook Native Plants (Dr. Frank Porter), and Sunshine Farm and Gardens (Barry Glick).

Listed below are some sources of native plants for our area. If you know of others, please let me know so we can compile a complete list for the next spring issue of Native Notes.

Brandywine Conservancy  
 PO Box 141  
 Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
 Phone: 610 388-2700

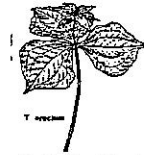
Web site: [www.brandywinemuseum.org/NativePlants](http://www.brandywinemuseum.org/NativePlants)

Seed available in packets at \$2 (30-50 seeds) or 3 packets at \$5

Sells quality seeds of many native plants at very reasonable prices. Call Mark Gormel at 610 388-8327 for availability of "Large quantity" amounts of seeds (1 gram or 1/8 ounce up to 1 ounce).



Indian Cudumber-root



Wake Robin

Doyle Farm Nursery  
 158 Norris Road  
 Delta, PA 17314  
 Phone/FAX : 717 862-3134  
 Email: [jld@doylefarm.com](mailto:jld@doylefarm.com)  
 Web site: [doylefarm.com](http://doylefarm.com)



White Clintonia  
*Clintonia umbellulata*

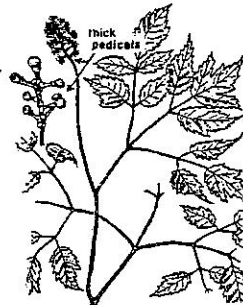


Plumelily

Doyle Farm Nursery specializes in native perennial grasses and herbs. They have a large variety of plants to choose from. All plants are grown outside so they do not have to acclimatize when first planted.

Located in York County Pennsylvania. Plants are high quality and most are sold in "pots" that are quart or gallon size. They will ship but it is cheaper to pick up gallon size containers at the nursery. Prices are generally \$5-6 for quart size and \$8-13 for gallon size.

Elk Ridge Nature Works, LLC  
 Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell  
 283 Elk Ridge Lane  
 Grantsville, MD 21536  
 Phone: 301 895-3686  
 Email: [info@elkridgenatureworks.com](mailto:info@elkridgenatureworks.com)  
 Web site: [elkridgenatureworks.com](http://elkridgenatureworks.com)

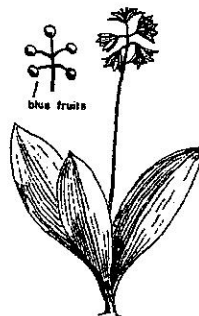


Doll's Eye  
*Actaea pachypoda*



Purple-stem Aster  
*Symphotrichum puniceum*

A very nice selection of native plants grown on site in Garrett County in western Maryland. Ron and Liz are very helpful and have a nice selection of Mid-Appalachian wildflowers, grasses and rushes. You can purchase the plants at the nursery (by appointment), at local festivals & farmers markets, as well as, several plant events in the Mid-Atlantic region.



Beadlily  
*Clintonia borealis*



Star-flowered Solomon's Seal  
*Smilacina stellata*

Enchanter's Garden  
 Peter Heus  
 HC 77, Box 108  
 Hinton, WV 25951  
 Phone- FAX: 304 466-3154



**McDowell's Sunflower**  
*Helianthus dowellianus*



**Maximilian's Sunflower**  
*Helianthus maximiliana*

Enchanter's Garden offers a wide variety of wildflowers, grasses, sedges and about 30 trees/shrubs. Most plants are in quart size containers. A listing of plants by common & scientific names and the prices, can be mailed to customers. To buy plants you need to make an appointment and visit the nursery. Plants are no longer sold by mail order as they were a few years ago.

-----Web Site: [wvnps.org](http://wvnps.org)-----

Porterbrook Native Plants  
 Dr. Frank Porter  
 49607 St. Rt. 124  
 Racine, OH 45771  
 Phone: 740 247-4565  
 Email: [info@porterbrooknativeplants.com](mailto:info@porterbrooknativeplants.com)  
 Web site: [porterbrooknativeplants.com](http://porterbrooknativeplants.com)



**Merry Bells**



**Cup-plant**  
*Silphium perfoliatum*



*CEANOTHUS americanus*  
**New Jersey Tea**

We gladly accept small online orders from those unable to visit the nursery. Unless otherwise stated, all plants cost \$5.00 each plus the actual cost of postage. Plants will be sent via USPS. You can pay by personal check or money order made out to Frank W. Porter.

The web site lists several hundred wildflowers, sedges, grasses, etc. With descriptions of foliage, flowers, height, hardiness zones, sun/shade preference and other useful information. If you have questions email: [info@porterbrooknativeplants.com](mailto:info@porterbrooknativeplants.com) There is also a page on rock gardens and a note that Frank sells many native trees and shrubs that are not listed on the web site.

Shooting Star Nursery  
 444 Bates Road  
 Frankfort, KY  
 Phone: 502 867-7979  
 Web site: [www.shootingstarnursery.com](http://www.shootingstarnursery.com)



**Large-flowered Trillium**



**Painted Trillium**  
*Trillium undulatum*

Huge selection of mostly native plants that are grown in containers and shipped in 2.5 and 3.5-inch pots. They have large selections of grasses/sedges, aquatics, ferns, trees/shrubs, and vines/brambles.. Also sells seed mixes. Prices for plants generally range from \$5 - \$7 and woody seedling range from \$10 - \$17



*ILEX verticillata*  
**Winterberry**



*NEMOPANTHUS mucronata*  
**Mountain-Holly**



*GELASTRUS scandens*  
**Climbing Bittersweet**

Toadshade Wildflower Farm  
 53 Everittstown Rd.  
 Frenchtown, NJ 08825  
 Phone: 908 996-7500  
 Web site: www.toadshade.com



HEPATICA acutiloba  
**Sharp-lobed Hepatica**



VIOLA pedata  
**Bird-foot Violet**

All plants are native to the eastern US and are grown from seeds or cuttings in 3.5 inch (1 pint) pots. A few are grown in larger pots. Catalog lists categories of **deer resistant, butterflies and hummingbirds, sunny, partial shade, and shady** as well as, **dry, moist, and wet soils**. They specialize in perennials.  
 Two shipping seasons: April 1 thru June 30 and September 1 thru October 30.  
 Most plants cost from \$5 - \$5.75

Sylva Native Nursery and Seed Co.  
 Mike Hollins – President  
 3815 Roser Road  
 Glen Rock, PA 17327  
 Phone: 717 227-0486  
 FAX: 717 227-0484  
 Email: sylvanat@aol.com  
 Web site: www.sylvanative.com



ILEX collina  
**Long-stalked Holly**



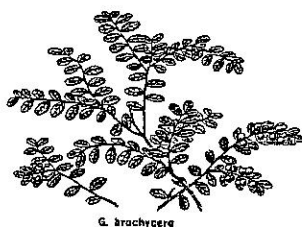
ACORUS calamus  
**Sweet Flag**



HALESIA carolina  
**Silverbell**

Sells a wide variety of seed mixes, seedlings and tublings of wildflowers/herbs, trees and shrubs. Excellent selections of wetland species. Mike often collects seed and material from West Virginia.

Sunshine Farm and Gardens  
 HC 67 Box 539B  
 Renick, WV 24966  
 Phone: 304 497-2208  
 Email: barry@sunfarm.com  
 Web site: sunfarm.com



G. brachycera  
**Box Huckleberry**



POLYSTICHUM americanum  
**Christmas Fern**

Barry Glick is the owner, brains and energy behind Sunshine Farm and Gardens that grows over 10,000 perennials, bulbs, trees, shrubs, sedges, wildflowers and specializes in hellebores. This nursery is primarily wholesale but offers limited mail order to home gardeners where they have no established retailers. No one else in our area offers as many plant species.  
 The web site is very interesting, colorful and loaded with nice information. Barry offers tours, workshops and lectures to groups.



R. nudiflorum  
**Pinxter**



RHODODENDRON  
 R. colanduleaceum R. arborecens  
**Flame & Smooth Azalea**

Windbeam Way Nursery  
Doug Jolley -Owner  
Route 5 in Heaters, 5 miles north of Exit 67 on I-79 at Flatwoods  
Phone: 304 765-2608 Open to public in May on Sunday and Monday from 9 AM-7 PM  
or by appointment.  
Email: apectrumwv@yahoo.com

Windbeam Way Nursery offers native azaleas to the eastern US (\$15 - \$45).  
Unique rhododendrons.  
Viburnums \$18 - \$40  
Witchhazel \$20 - \$45 (native and several others)  
Common wildflowers and ferns \$4 - \$12  
Perennials & shrubs for birds and butterflies  
\* 1-acre display garden for your viewing

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### **Kanawha Valley Native Plant Society Events**

**June 27-28, 2008 – Pocahontas County/Handley Wildlife Management Area  
Weekend**  
Please register with Chris Gatens at 304/458-2533 or Kevin  
Campbell at 304/679-3754.

**July 26, 2008 – Joint hike with the Tri-State Chapter at Greenbottom Wildlife  
Management Area. Meet at the General Jenkins home at 9:00 am.**

**August 16, 2008 - Winfield Swamp Interpretive Hike at 9:00 am. Meet at the  
Wendys Restaurant**  
Parking Lot at the junction of Route 34 and 35.

**September 13, 2008 – Margaret Dennison Memorial Hikes at Kanawha State Forest.**  
Registration begins at 9:00 am at the swimming pool area.

**October 11, 2008 – Hike to Ivy Knob atop Guyandotte Mountain on the Boone,  
Raleigh, and Wyoming County lines. Please register with Chris  
Gatens at 304/458-2533. The meeting location for the hike is to  
be announced later.**

### **Tri-State Native Plant Society 2008 Wildflower Hikes**

April 5th: - East Lynn Lake, East Lynn, WV. Meet 8 am at the 5th street Park  
and Ride off I-64 in Huntington. Note: This hike will be moderately difficult,  
requiring walking sticks and water. Scenic hike with waterfall and rock  
formations.

May 3rd: - Carter Caves State Park – Olive Hill, KY. Meet at the visitors center  
at 9 am. From I-64 east. Take exit #161 (Olive Hill exit). Turn left off the exit

onto US 60 east. Go approximately 2 miles and turn left on KY 182 north. Park entrance is 3 miles from the left turn onto KY 182 north.

June 21st: Symmes Creek, OH- Cadmus, OH. This is a joint hike with the Ohio Moss and Lichen Association. Meet 8 am at the old school in Cadmus, OH (Hwy 141 Gallia County) The school building is a wide brick building on the right side of the road along 141 as you come into the town. From Huntington take the east end bridge into OH. Continue straight until you reach the junction with Rt 775 and take it north. Take 141 to Cadmus.

July 26th: Greenbottom Swamp- Meet 9 am at the General Jenkins House. Joint Trip with Kanawha Valley Native Plant Society. From Huntington, travel north on West Virginia State Route 2 for about 16 miles. The General Jenkins House is a white historic house on the left side of road.

April-Members Picnic-TBA

September- TBA Possible hike at Mills Creek, Milton WV.

The Tri-State Native Plant Society is a local chapter of the West Virginia Native Plant Society. For more information about the TSNPS or these hikes contact Jeff Patton at 606-739-9715 or [jzebulon@hotmail.com](mailto:jzebulon@hotmail.com) The WVNPS is dedicated to the conservation and appreciation of West Virginia's native plants and habitats. Visit us on the web at [www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org)

Wayne National Forest, Ironton OH

Sunday May 4th 10 AM (after bird walk at 7AM) Rockhouse Trail Sat, June 6th 5 PM meet at Vesuvius dam parking lot

The 46th West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage will be held on May 8-11, 2008 at Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, West Virginia.

Pocahontas Master Naturalists and Greenbrier River Trail are sponsoring 4 flower/bird walks Saturday, May 3, 2008.

1. Greenbrier River Trail flower/bird walk-easy 4 miles, meet at the Seebert/Trail Bridge at 9:00. A van will be available when needed.
2. Jesse's Cove Trail in Watoga State Park 5 miles, somewhat strenuous Meet at the Seebert/Trail Bridge at 9:00 am.
3. Bird Walk at Cranberry Board Walk led by Rob Tallman ornithologist, WVDNR. Meet at 7:00 am at the Board Walk parking lot.
4. Flower/bird walk on the Cranberry Board Walk and a section of the Cow Pasture Trail. Meet at the Cranberry Boardwalk at 9:00 am.



## MAY THERE BE ORCHIDS, SHALE BARRENS & LOTS OF FLOWERS IN HEAVEN

AL SHRIVER was sometimes gruff but always caring about those in his presence. Al was a longtime member of WVNPS who lived in Pittsburgh, PA where he spent many days and weekends traveling with his son, Scott and Clete Smith searching for orchids in western PA and MD, WV and eastern OH. The three also traveled to many parts of the US and Canada to study, photo and marvel at orchids. Al's license plate said it all, "3BIRD" for the Three Birds Orchid.

Al will be remembered for the following: After spotting an orchid on a road bank in a blind curve, he stopped and was out looking at the orchid. Another driver came around the curve and nearly hit his vehicle and had to swerve into the other lane to get by. The driver got out and yelled at Al, "What in the \*%#@ are you doing!" Al yelled back, "Can't you see, I'm looking at orchids". The confused but still angry driver, shook his head in pure disgust. He got back in his car and drove off. I will remember Al as "the bull of the woods", a kind friend, a man with an excellent search image for orchids, and the "king of walking sticks". His basement must have enough walking sticks to keep all of the family supplied for another 100 years. Al Shriver died on March 21, 2008 at the age of 84 after a very successful career as football coach and biology teacher at Avonworth High School in Pittsburgh.

MELVIN BROWN loved his birthplace at Elk Garden in Mineral County and the well known shale barren named Larenim (Mineral spelled backwards). He established arboreta in both locations.

Editor's favorite memory of Melvin: The Flora of WV Committee was discussing several changes in scientific (Latin) names. In Melvin's mindset, this change by a modern day taxonomic guru was ridiculous and more than he could take. In a fit of rage and frustration he hit the table top with his fist and proclaimed, "If Linnaeus put a name on a plant, and it was good enough for Asa Gray, and was used by P. D. Strausbaugh and Earl Core, it is \*&\$%@^ good enough for me." With that, we kept the old "tried and true" name and moved on to other issues. With that scenario, Melvin Brown became a botanical hero to me.

Dr. Melvin Brown of Cumberland, MD was another longtime member of WVNPS. He died on December 7, 2007. Below is Jon Weems commentary on Melvin.

### "No More Loads of Brush : Written by Jon Weems

For the thirty years I've been caring for the Core Arboretum, one pleasant chore has been traveling to Melvin L. Brown's homes near Cumberland, MD and Elk Garden, WV to pick up what Melvin humorously called "a load of brush". The brush consisted of Melvin's annual donation of difficult-to-obtain native and exotic woody plants, and Melvin was the Arboretum's best friend. Beginning when he was a graduate student working with Earl Core in the 1950s, Melvin provided the vast majority of the Arboretum's specimen trees and shrubs. His generous support of the arboretum and the WVU Department of Biology also included time, energy, and a substantial amount of money over the years.

I speak of Melvin in the past tense because he passed away last Friday, about ten days after suffering a stroke. He was 89. His funeral was Monday. Surviving relatives include his wife Mary, his sister, his niece, a great niece, a great nephew, and a great, great niece. Melvin's life powerfully enriched those of these relatives and many other persons.

People sometimes underestimated the slow-moving and slow-talking Melvin at first meeting. His deliberate, patient manner was conspicuous in a world where most folks seemed to be in a hurry. However, anyone who paid attention soon learned that this kindly, gentle man was remarkably productive. There was no wasted motion with Melvin. He also had real depth of character. Steadfast, with the tenacity of a bulldog, he never forgot his roots for a moment.

Melvin's long career as a botanist and educator was filled with achievements and recognition. He chaired the Department of Biology at Frostburg State University for many years. Perhaps his proudest accomplishment was the publication of the companion volumes; *Woody Plants of Maryland* and *Herbaceous Plants of Maryland*, which he co-wrote with the late Russell G. Brown (no relation). Melvin liked to joke, "It took two West Virginians to straighten out the flora of Maryland".

Arboreta were a particular interest of Melvin's. In addition to the Core Arboretum, which has had a "Melvin Brown Trail" since 1984, he was a founder or key supporter of at least 4 other arboreta. The Core Arboretum, though certainly had a special place in his heart. Contribution envelopes labeled "core Arboretum" were evident at the funeral home that arranged Melvin's final services, and his obituary in the *Cumberland Times-News* noted that contributions in Melvin's memory could be made to the Core Arboretum.

Thank you Melvin, for using your time on earth so well and so generously. I'll miss picking up my annual load of brush more than most people can understand."

### **WV VOLUNTARY RURAL & OUTDOOR HERITAGE ACT OF 2008**

This recent law allows WV to make state investments in the conservation of important wildlife habitat, natural areas, forestland, and farmland through a fund called the Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund. Money will be accumulated from a \$4 flat fee on the recording of deeds and \$5 flat fee on the recording of other documents. Half of the revenue from these fees will be directed to the new state-level Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund created by the legislation and half will be directed to the state-level Farmland Protection Fund.

Rodney Bartgis, WV State Director of TNC said that the passage of the bill indicates the power of a wide spectrum of coalitions groups that support the conservation of West Virginia's natural assets and growing recognition that these assets are the state's competitive advantage.

NOTE: This is a great opportunity for WVNPS to become proactive and develop a list of the top sites for unique natural plant communities and rare plants.

## SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Eighteen of you took time to return the membership surveys to Kevin Campbell. Ten were mailed or handed in at the annual meeting and 8 were returned electronically.

### Reasons you belong to WVNPS      Areas where you would volunteer

- # 1. Field trips
- # 2. Newsletter
- # 3. Workshops
- # 4. Seed exchange

- #1. Field trips
- #2. Newsletter
- #3. Workshops
- #4. Grant writing

### Most important WVNPS activities

- #1. Education of public on native and non-native plants
- #2. Field trips to specific habitats
- #3. Field trips to observe many different plants
- #4. Field trips to collect scientific data
- #5. Field trips to see rare plants
- #6. Work with other groups to control invasive species
- #7. Displays on WVNPS and plant conservation at meetings
- #8. Work with other groups to restore native habitats
- #9. Establish rare and native gardens/ seed banks
- #10. Sponsor statewide and chapter lectures
- #11. Establish native plant gardens at schools
- #12. Gifts to herbaria, native plant gardens and education
- #13. Fund student research

### Format to receive newsletter

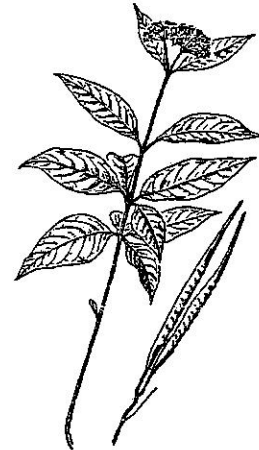
- 12 – electronic
- 7 – hard copy (Printed)

### Other comments:

- Work with local governments and state parks to protect rare and native plants
- Help sponsor legislation to protect rare plants and native plant communities
- Support “slow food” movement
- Everyone should know about the native plants in their area. WVNPS is a good tool for this.
- New member and difficult to rank. All topics are quite important.
- More emphasis on promotion and recruitment
- Recruit by concentrating on professionals who work in the state and on people who majored in biology and botany. Perhaps we can get lists from colleges and universities.
- Schedule events 1 year ahead of time and place info on the website and in the newsletter. Would be willing to lead a field trip and hold a workshop on how landowners can control invasive aliens and modify native habitats.



ARUNCUS dioicus  
**Goatsbeard**



A. quadrifolia  
**Whorled Milkweed**

### **POMEROY, OHIO INVASIVE CONFERENCE**

Thanks to Frank Porter and Hal Kneen (Meigs County – Ohio Extension Service) for a very successful invasive plant conference, titled, **THE SILENT INVASION: Ecological & Health Threats**. About 60 participants gathered to hear the speakers say we can have an impact through hard work, smart actions, and planting the right plants for beauty and ornamentals, restoration, and reclamation. The conference was held at the Meigs County Extension office on March 27, 2008.

Hal and Frank got us off on the right foot by telling us what we as homeowners and landowners can do. Bill Grafton followed this with how native shrubs and plants can be used in restoration and reclamation. Mark Rose from the Asheville, NC area was the keynote speaker and gave us insight into invasive plants and their control in North Carolina. Chris McCullough (Cincinnati, Ohio) told us 24 ways to remove Amur Honeysuckle. Then our own WVNPS member Judith Dumke talked about Identifying and Dealing with Invasive Species. Frank Porter (WVNPS Board member) then wrapped up the day with a talk on Native Alternatives and a **very positive recruitment talk for WVNPS**.

Those who were there learned a lot. Those who missed it need to be ready for next year's conference. THANKS FRANK!!!

### **Winter Lecture Series a success: by Jeff Patton**

Once again the West Virginia Native Plant Society Winter Lecture Series at Marshall University had a successful season. The series, comprised of various talks, was held monthly from December through March. This seasons talks included Fire Ecology of the Appalachian Foothills, Silvicultural Effects on Forest Mosses in Vinton County: Ohio Records and Species Trends, Tree-of-Heaven its History, Biology, and Invasion into the Deciduous Forest of Southern Ohio, and the Wildflowers of Barboursville Park. Each talk had over 20 in attendance. The talks are sponsored by the Tri-State Chapter, with Chad Kirschbaum arranging the speakers and classroom space.

### **BROCHURES FROM OHIO AND THE MIDWEST**

A very attractive brochure has been printed by the Ohio DNR and Ohio Chapter – TNC on "Fighting Invasive Plants in Ohio". Ohio has 2,300 plant species of which 78 % are native. The color brochure describes 10 of the most invasive non-native plant species by providing: Description, Habitat, Management, Native Alternatives, & What You Can Do To Help. These 10 species are: Autumn-olive, Bush Honeysuckles (Amur, Tatarian, and Morrow), Buckthorns (Glossy & European), Common Reed Grass (Phragmites), Garlic Mustard, Japanese Honeysuckle, Japanese Knotweed, Multiflora Rose, Purple Loosestrife, and Reed Canary Grass. Website: [www.ohiodnr.com/dnap](http://www.ohiodnr.com/dnap)  
ODNR-Wildlife and US Fish & Wildlife published a nice color brochure on "invasive Alien Species: Impacts to Fish and Wildlife in Ohio. Website: [www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife](http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife)  
The third color brochure was published by the Midwest Invasive Plant Network and titled "Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants of the Midwest". Website: [MIPN.org](http://MIPN.org)

## **RECRUITMENT & PUBLICITY**

Several members have been very active in recruitment and publicity. Previously mentioned was Frank Porter who gave a very passionate talk about the values of belonging to WVNPS at the Invasives Conference in Pomeroy, Ohio.

Several members were involved in setting up and taking down the WVNPS display at Wildlife diversity Day at the State Capitol in Charleston. While I have no official article, I am fairly sure that Helen Gibbins, Jeff Patton, Chad Kirshbaum, and Steve Mace were part of the work crew.

WVNPS also received some good publicity at the WV Master Gardener Annual Meeting held in Charleston. Jennifer Soule was very active in arrangement at the Catholic Center Retreat. Bill Grafton gave a talk on Native Plants with Potential for Landscaping. Emily Grafton gave a presentations on Ferns and their Possibilities in Landscaping. There were a number of WVNPS members present, including Board of Trustees member, Judi White.

Bill Grafton took the older exhibit and membership brochures to a Master Gardener meeting in Petersburg and gave a recruitment talk and a presentation to MG members from Grant and Hardy Counties on Use of Native Plants.

The 47 th Annual Blackwater Falls Wildflower Pilgrimage will bring over 300 people into our highlands to study wildflowers, birds, geology and other animals and plants. Mae Ellen Wilson and Julian Martin will have our WVNPS exhibit and membership brochures on display. Tour leaders who are WVNPS members include: Elizabeth Byers, Tom & Dawn Fox, PJ Harmon, Bill & Emily Grafton, Brian McDonald, Sue Studlar, and Donna Ford-Werntz.

## **2 MORE NATIONAL BOTANICAL MEETINGS IN WV**

The **AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY** is coming to Canaan Valley for their annual meeting. They will be meeting on June 6 – 8. Doug Jolley and Mike Breiding are playing major roles in arrangements. Bill Grafton will give a presentation to the group and help with field trips. Non-members can attend any talks but not field trips. The **NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE, INC.** will meet at West Virginia University on July 18 thru July 21<sup>st</sup>. There will 2 days of indoor talks and meetings and 2 days of field trips. WVNPS members Scott Shriver, Clete Smith, Donna Ford-Werntz, and Bill Grafton will be very involved with the conference that is headquartered out of North Carolina.

## **WAIVER OF LIABILITY: TO PROTECT YOU & WVNPS**

Virtually every organized group is having to look at waivers of liability and insurance as a means of preventing law suits. The “Native Plant Society of Oregon” is 10 times bigger than our group and require all field trip participants to sign the following statement. The officers and Board of WVNPS will be looking at some version of this to protect field trip participants and officers, leaders and their families.

**Native Plant Society of Oregon  
Waiver of liability  
Indemnification Agreement**

\*\*\* Please read all of this form. It is important! \*\*\*

Thank you very much for coming to an NPSO field trip! The following agreement is necessary for the well-being of NPSO and all field participants. WE appreciate your understanding.

**I understand that I am solely responsible for my own safety at all times.** I acknowledge that my participation in any NPSO field trip is purely voluntary, and I understand that some parts of the field trips may be hazardous and may result in damage or loss of my property or in my injury.

**I agree to take full responsibility for my own medical needs.** I am aware that trips require physical outdoor activity and have certain risks inherent with exposure to nature and natural processes. I certify that I have no health or physical problems which should interfere with my participation.

**I understand that horseplay, roughhousing, shoving, contact sports or other such activities are not appropriate and not allowed on NPSO trips.**

**I agree to stay with the group.** If I need to vary for any reason, I will do so only with the permission of the leader.

**I understand that transportation to the beginning of the trailhead or field site is not part of any NPSO-sponsored activity.** Although NPSO suggests carpooling to save gas and reduce pollution, I agree that if I carpool, it is an independent activity organized by myself and other individuals on our own initiative and at our own risk.

**I hereby agree for myself and for my heirs, representatives, agents, and assigns, that I will not hold the NPSO liable.** I will waive and release any claims, demands or actions against them, for any damages to or loss of my property, or for my illness, injury or death, which results from or arises in connection with any NPSO field trip other than that which results from gross negligence.

**The persons and organizations covered by this agreement are:**

NPSO, its officers, or members, and

Any other participant(s) in field trips including any people invited by any NPSO Member(s), and

Any of the agents or employees of the above persons and organization.

**In addition, I agree to indemnify the above people for any claims made against them on my behalf or otherwise, as a result of any damage to or loss of my property, or as a result of my injury or death, resulting from or arising in connection with the NPSO field trips, other than that which occurs as a result of the gross negligence of that person(s).**

**I HAVE READ THIS ENTIRE FORM, AND AGREE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

## DO YOU WANT TO CONTACT YOUR OFFICERS OR BOARD MEMBERS

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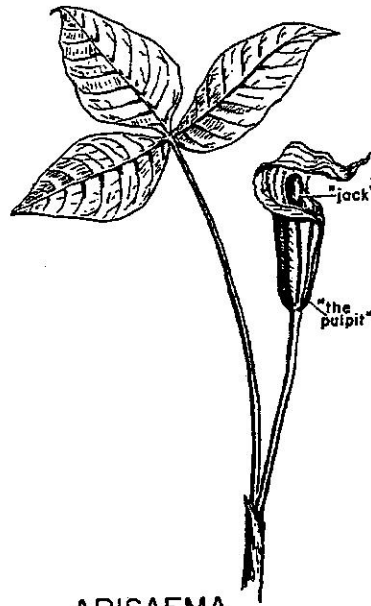
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Emily.Grafton@gmail.com



ARISAEMA  
triphyllum  
**Jack-in-the-pulpit**

## WVU HERBARIUM & ARBORETUM NEWS

Donna Ford-Werntz identified 35 plants for people during 2007 and had an additional 71 inquiries. Plant specimens donated to the Herbarium totaled 1836, with 866 donated by Jim Vanderhorst (DNR Heritage Program) from a survey on Bluestone River Gorge. Donna led 9 wildflower walks in the WVU Arboretum, WV Botanic Garden and at the WV Wildflower Pilgrimage.

Jon Weems (Arboretum) helped with a research study of 4 gullies in the Arboretum that showed very high erosion rates. The impermeable surfaces of roofs, parking lots, and ball fields in the Coliseum Sports Complex are obviously a major factor. Jon Weems continues to reduce invasive plants, maintain trails and to hope for a future Arboretum Learning Center.

## FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA PROJECT AND KATE'S MTN. CLOVER ILLUS.

The WVNPS Board approved spending \$200 to support the drawing of Kate's Mountain Clover for the **Flora of North America** (FNA) project. FNA is the most ambitious botanic effort ever undertaken in the US. To date, 14 volumes of the total of 30 volumes are published and are for sale for about \$76/volume. Each volume covers all North American plants north of Mexico. The 2 volumes of Fabaceae (legumes) are scheduled for printing in 2009 and will include the Kate's Mountain Clover illustration. WVNPS will have the right to use this illustration for the Society's official use.

Check the FNA web site @ [www.fna.org](http://www.fna.org)

### WVNPS SUPPORT OF DNR NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Below is a letter sent to the WV Sec. Of commerce and DNR Wildlife officials in support of the DNR Natural Heritage Program and the reply from Kelley Goes, WV Secretary of commerce. **Read and draw your own conclusions!**

Dear Secretary Goes,

The West Virginia Native Plant Society strongly supports the work of the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program. The program catalogs and updates the list of all of the plants of our state and provides that information to the public, researchers, and other governmental agencies. It tracks those plants that are deemed rare. It also provides information to NatureServe, an international network of biological inventories. So far more than 2300 species of vascular plants have been documented in West Virginia. Three fourths are native to the state. The Natural Heritage program has also documented nearly 400 non-vascular plants. Thus West Virginia is fortunate that it abounds with diversity, Keeping track of these plants is essential in knowing how well we are maintaining our biodiversity of plants and animals. However, the DNR/Natural Heritage Program is currently not able to do its job of studying and protecting WV plant diversity because of funding and staff limitations. There are a large number of rare species (natives known from only a few counties) that aren't even on the Program's radar screen (i.e., not monitored or tracked in any way). Some have not been seen for many years. Only a handful of plants get any attention. Why is biodiversity so important?

#### **\*ECOLOGY\***

All of our organisms are interdependent. When we lose plants, we lose other parts of the web of life that depended on those plants. When we tend towards monoculture, we are more vulnerable to infestations and outside events. A diverse plant community will help prevent flooding during long and heavy rains. During drought a diverse community will help hold water and withstand complete aridity of our habitats. Loss of plant communities may also cause loss of soil, a resource that is often underestimated in its value to society. When we lose plants, we also lose game and nongame animals from the web of life.

#### **\*ECONOMICS\***

We also have economic benefits from biodiversity because everything ultimately came from the natural world. As we run out of other natural resources, we find that we need new resources for products integral to our modern society. Native plants are the subject of medical research. When we lose plants, we may be losing a cure for a disease.

Research to economically develop a fuel from our native plant, switch grass, is an example of how dependent we still are on plants. Another example of a plant that has a potential for making fuel in the potential of bio-diesel from the seeds of some perennial sunflowers that have up to 35% oil. Reclamation of surface mines in West Virginia using suitable sunflower species for producing bio-diesel



would be beneficial to our state and promote the use of native species. And there are many other plants with the potential of being derivatives for fuel. Our agricultural practices have tended towards monoculture, leaving us subject to wholesale disasters. All of our agricultural plants came from native plants so that losing diversity also subjects us to losing the possibility for viable substitutes for agricultural plants. Thus we would like to see the Natural Heritage Program expanded to include seed collection and preservation.

**\*CULTURE\***

Many people are dependent on biodiversity for esthetics, cultural history, home remedies, etc. West Virginia is a tourist destination for hiking, wildlife viewing, experiencing beautiful surroundings, and exploring diverse habitats. Member of the WV Native Plant Society buy wildlife license plates, hunting licenses and fishing licenses. One of our main reasons for supporting the license plate program is our interest in the work of the Natural Heritage Program. The WVNPS considers itself a partner organization to the Natural Heritage program. Last year with the aid of Elizabeth Byers we helped the program carry out its mission by monitoring records of a few rare plants; but because we are a volunteer organization, we have the resources to monitor only a few rare plants. We want our valuable flora species to be protected. We believe that the Natural Heritage Program is essential to this protection, but it depends on adequate funding and staffing. We voice these concerns to encourage the State of West Virginia to fully support the Natural Heritage Program.  
Sincerely, Helen Gibbins

Here is a letter I received today from Kelley Goes, Sec. of Dept. of Commerce. It is a response to the letter I sent on behalf of the WVNPS. Helen Gibbins

Kelley Goes, Secretary Department of Commerce State Capitol Building 6, Room 525 Charleston, WV 25305-0311

December 5, 2007

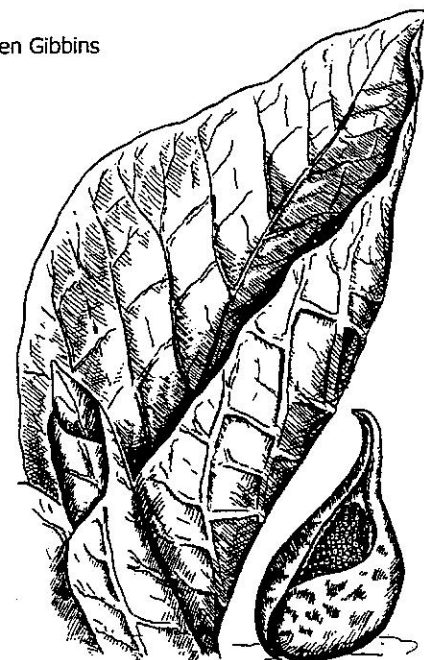
Telephone: (304) 558-2234 Toll Free: (800) 982-3386 Fax: (304) 558-1189  
Email: kgoes@commercewv.org

To:  
Ms. Helen Gibbins Recording Secretary  
WV Native Plant Society 6128 Gideon Rd. Huntington, WV 25705  
Dear Ms. Gibbins:

Thank you for your recent letter supporting the Wildlife Resources Section's native plant programs within the wildlife diversity unit. I certainly recognize all the points you made relative to the importance of maintaining plant diversity. I would point out, however, some of the limitations we face in maintaining and expanding the program.

Significant constraints exist in the legislation creating the agency.

Specifically, the Declaration of Policy establishing the agency (West Virginia Code §20-2-1) states, "It is declared to be the public policy of the State of West Virginia that the wildlife resources of this State shall be protected for the use and enjoyment of all the citizens of this State. All species of wildlife shall be maintained for values which may



**SYMPLOCARPUS foetidus**

**Skunk Cabbage**

be either intrinsic or ecological or of benefit to man. Such benefits shall include (1) hunting, fishing and other diversified recreational uses; (2) economic contributions in the best interests of the people of this State; and (3) scientific and educational uses. (1969, c.88).

While the argument can be made that protection of wildlife includes conservation of habitat which in turn includes conservation of individual native plants, the interpretation has been much narrower and emphasizes wildlife rather than plants and direct protection rather than a broader landscape/community conservation approach. Additionally, our most significant federal funding source for diversity issues is the State

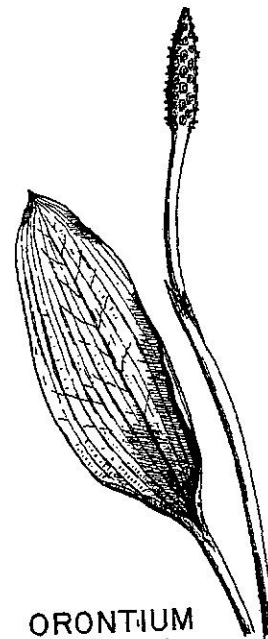
Wildlife Grants Program (SWG), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) which specifically excludes work on individual plants. However, we have identified 11 habitats as either very important or at risk in the strategic plan that guides expenditure decisions of these funds.

I trust you are aware that the Wildlife Resources Section receives only a small amount of appropriated funds from West Virginia taxpayers which makes your participation in the license plate program all the more valuable. By law, revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses can only be spent for fish and wildlife activities. I am pleased to know your members purchase these licenses and hope they continue to do so as these monies by far fund the largest percentage of conservation programs.

Having said that, please be aware that in the recent past we have conducted significant work classifying high elevation wetlands through the Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant and spruce communities. We have conducted considerable classification, mapping and floristic inventory work under contract with the West Virginia National Guard and the National Park Service and we continue work on federally listed species under a combination of state license plate funding and USFWS Section 6 endangered species monies. We supported the field and office work to develop and publish the /Mushrooms of West Virginia and the Central Appalachians (Roody 2003) and the /Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia (Harmon et al. 2006). We have contributed to restoring the natural community at Blister Swamp. For the first time this year, we are soliciting proposals for a project that seeks to propagate and restore the endangered harperella in the eastern panhandle.

We currently employ a botanist and a community ecologist and seek to employ two additional part-time plant-related positions. I strongly agree that more could be done, but am not embarrassed by what we are doing. At this time it is simply a matter of limited funding for work focusing exclusively on plants. We fully intend to continue our plant related programs but must do so within our financial constraints. I appreciate your comments and continued support and assistance.

Keiley M. Goes, Secretary Department of Commerce



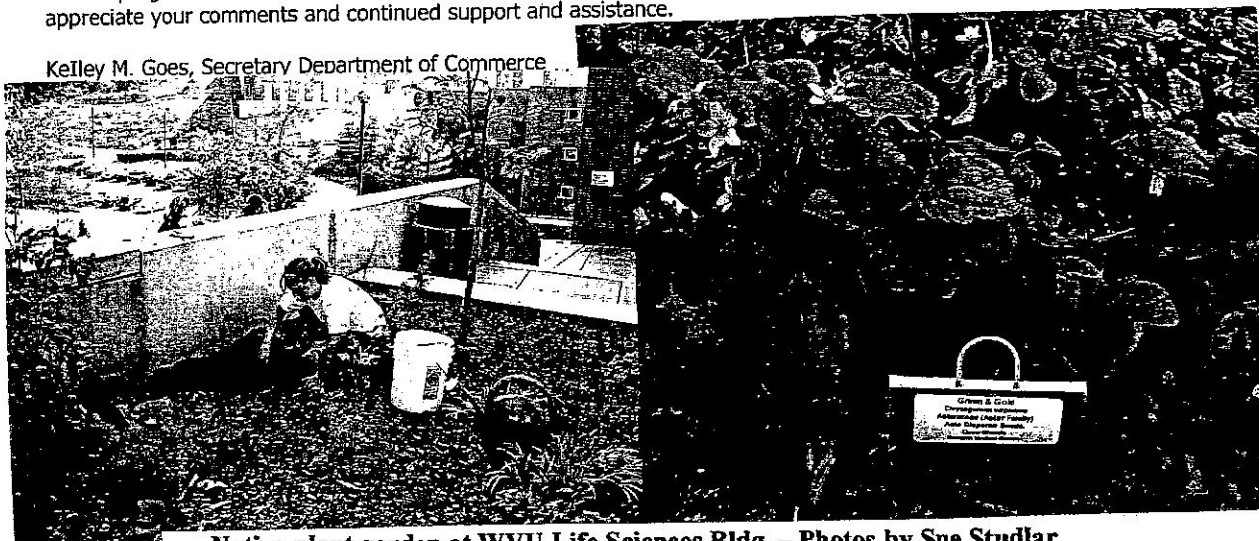
ORONTIUM  
aquaticum

Golden Club



GENTIANA  
crinita

Fringed Gentian



Native plant garden at WVU Life Sciences Bldg. – Photos by Sue Studlar

## **POLLINATION STATION: A NATIVE-PLANT GARDEN IN BARTOW, WV**

Wendy Campbell (US Forest Service- Conservation Education Coordinator) is planning a botanical garden for Pocahontas County that demonstrates the ecological and economic values to the Central Appalachian ecoregion. I will serve as a science center for involving the public in research, education and events celebrating the natural heritage of our area.

The Pollination Station will be used to encourage landowners to create habitats that will foster populations of native bees and other pollinators. The idea is to plant native trees, shrubs vines, and wildflowers where you live, work, or farm – from hedgerow to meadow and woodland to streamside. Adults and youth are invited to help collect seed, plant seeds or seedlings, and maintain the Forest Service native botanical garden for the Central Appalachians.

Contact Wendy Campbell – Conservation Education Coordinator

Email [wcampbell@fs.fed.us](mailto:wcampbell@fs.fed.us)

Phone: 304 456-3335 ext. 114

Elizabeth Byers, DNR Natural Heritage Program (also WVNPS member) has put together a very nice list of pollinator plants to help guide the Forest Service and landowners.

----- Web site – [www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org) -----

### **"IN A BIG RUSH ?" - IT ISN'T ALWAYS BAD** By Bill Grafton

On Sept. 30, 2008 John & Paulette Zabkar, Loree Speedy. And Dave and Anna Marie Koenig found the first fringed gentian (*Gentiana crinita*) in Canaan Valley State Park. This rare and beautiful plant had last been seen in West Virginia in 1947 in Greenbrier County. The Greenbrier site, was the only known location ever found in WV.

On that very nice autumn morning, Emily and I were walking along the Lindy Point Trail with her Mother, & several of her kin folks, when we encountered the above group of 5 explorers from the Pittsburgh area. John Zabkar had been very active with the North American Rock Garden Society group that had been in Canaan Valley earlier in the year. John wanted to locate the Showy Ladies' slipper site in Canaan Valley.

Since Emily and her family had gone on out the trail, I tried to tell John where the Lady's Slippers were located. At the same time, I needed to catch up with Emily, so the directions were "in a rush". I will take time to send John much better direction in the next few days so he and the group can find the Showy Lady's Slippers this year.

Later that day, I spent an hour or more looking for the fringed gentian at a site close to Davis. Lew Baxter had told me about this site. This was my second visit but I still had no luck.

Was I ever surprised when I received an email 2 days later telling me that John and the group had not gone to the spot where my "in a big rush" directions should have take them. They misunderstood and were on a different area of Abe Run **but had found the fringed gentian instead of the Showy Lady's Slipper.**

**What a fantastic find!!** I truly hope they get the joy of seeing the Showy Lady's Slipper this summer using direction that are not prepared in a big rush.

---

**2008 dues**

Regular membership ----\$12  
Student membership ---- 8  
Life membership 200  
Chapter membership  
    Kanawha Valley 6  
    Tri-State 6

You must be a member of the statewide WV NPS in order to be a member of a local chapter. Make your check payable to "West Virginia Native Plant Society". Just write one check and state if you are joining one or both chapters. The Treasurer will distribute Chapter dues to the proper chapter.

Send dues check to:

West Virginia Native Plant Society  
P. O. Box 808  
New Haven, WV 25265-0808

**WV NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
PO BOX 808  
NEW HAVEN, WV 25265-0808**

**WWW.WVNPS.ORG**



**Trifolium virginicum  
Kate's Mountain Clover**

*Judi + Dan White  
148 Wellesby Drive  
Washington, WV 26181*

