

NATIVE



NOTES

Kate's Mountain Clover\*

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18:1

APRIL 2010

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Judy Dumke-Editor: E-mail-dumke@marshall.edu Phone 740-894-6859

## *WILD FLOWER PILGRIMAGE*

Blackwater Falls State Park May 6-9 2010

**As** in past years the West Virginia Native Plant Society will hold its second board meeting of 2010 at the Blackwater Lodge during the Pilgrimage. The meeting will be held at 6 PM on Friday night, May seventh, in a room to be determined—watch for signs. All members are urged to attend to find out what your society is doing and to join with the board members after the meeting for food. In addition, there will also be an unmanned booth about the WVNPS with information for those attending the pilgrimage.

**If** you are unfamiliar with the Pilgrimage it is worth experiencing on both Friday and Saturday. There will be 12 different tours each day traveling in car caravans leaving the Lodge to go to various locations which should be amply stocked with wildflowers. The leaders will include several of our members with interesting tales to tell and plants, habitats, birds and animals to point out. As the lodge, cabins and some of the field trips are sure to be filled by the time you receive Native Notes please call Emily Fleming or Vickie Hash at (304) 558-2754 to find out what is available and to register. The banquet and reservation is \$42 per adult participant and \$25 with out the banquet. Box lunches for the field trips are available for \$7.50 each. The deadline is 23 April 2010. ❀

**Additional similar events:**

**Kentucky Native Plant Society Natural Bridge State Park April 23-25, 2010 for details contact [info@knps.org](mailto:info@knps.org)  
Web site <http://www.knps.org>**

**Arch of Appalachia Preserve System located in South Central Ohio April 16-18, 2010 for details web site <http://www.Highlandssancturay.org/Wildflower/Pilgrimage.htm> ❀**

\*DRAWN BY Betsy Trammell after photographs by Charles Garrett, Warm Springs Va.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST TO NOTE

Come out & join the Tri-State Native Plant Society on a series of wildflower hikes. •Free and open to the public

**April 10th-East Lynn Lake State Park.** Meet at the Marina at 8:30am. White Oak Creek Hike. Note: We also hope to take a boat ride across the lake to view Filmy Fern (bring life jackets if you have them).

**May 6th-9th WV Wilflower Pilgrimage.** Blackwater Falls, WV. This is not a WVNPS event, you must register with the WV DNR. The WVNPS will hold a meeting on Friday evening: Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> in the Lodge.

**June 19th-Vinton Experimental Forest.** OH. Fire Ecology and Management of Oak Hickory Forests. Meet at the Wayne National Forest Ranger Station in Pedro, OH at 8am.

**July 17th Wayne National Forest:Lick Branch Special Area.** OH. Explore a floodplain forest and view featherbells. Meet in Cadmus Ohio at 8am (HWY 141, Gallia County).

**August 28th Mills Creek Wildlife Management Area.** Milton WV. Meet at the Milton exit Park and Ride at 7:30am.  
**September: WVNPS State Hike and Meeting-TBA**

**October 2nd Blue Licks State Park.** Mt Olivet, KY. Short's Goldenrod and Great Plains Ladies'-Tresses. We will stop in Maysville on the way back to hunt for fossils if time permits. Meet at the Lodge at 9am.

For more information about hikes contact Jeff Patton at 606-739-9715 or jzebulon@hotmail.com. Visit us on the web at [www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org) ❖



### West Virginia Events

The WV Native Plant Society has reserved a table for the Earth Day celebration at the Clay Center, Charleston. The event is scheduled for **Saturday April 24, 2010**. We will provide information on native plants, growing native plants, and invasive plants. Mae Ellen Wilson and Helen Gibbins have volunteered to staff the table, but will welcome others to help them. If any of you wish to help with this event please contact Mae Ellen Wilson [imaginemew@aol.com](mailto:imaginemew@aol.com); or Helen Gibbins [gibbins@verizon.net](mailto:gibbins@verizon.net). ❖

**Saturday July 10th 2010.** Lavender Fair, Sponsored by La Paix Herb Farm. Booths. Workshops. Wild mushrooms and edible plants hikes. Pre-registration. For more information contact La Paix Herb Farm, 3052 Crooked Run Rd, Alum Bridge, WV 26321, Phone: 304-269-7681. [lapaix@hughes.net](mailto:lapaix@hughes.net) ❖

**Weeds Across Borders 2010 Conference June 1-4 2010**  
National Conservation Training Center Shepherdstown WV  
Plant Invasions: Policies, Politics and Practices.  
[www.weedcenter.org/wab2010](http://www.weedcenter.org/wab2010). ❖

### State Park Calendar web sites

West Virginia

[http://www.wvstateparks.com/Hikes\\_Walks.html](http://www.wvstateparks.com/Hikes_Walks.html)

Kentucky

<http://internet.parks.ky.gov/EventCalendar/SearchEvent.aspx>

Maryland

site undergoing revision at this time

Ohio

<http://ohiodnr.com/parks/resources/events/tabid/487/Default.aspx>.

Pennsylvania

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.aspx>

Virginia

[http://dcintra.dcr.virginia.gov/dcr\\_public/events](http://dcintra.dcr.virginia.gov/dcr_public/events)

Because weather and budgets make changes in park events only the web sites are provided. Please check to find the events which interest you. ❖

**The Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWPMA)**

Many agencies and organizations in Virginia and West Virginia are actively managing invasive plants, weeds freely spread across jurisdictional boundaries and the success of any individual agency's weed control effort will depend on the cooperation with adjacent landowners. The Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWPMA) is a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, community associations, non-profit organizations, and private land owners who have come together to combat invasive species.

The Potomac Highlands CWPMA covers lands in three counties in West Virginia, Grant, Hardy, and Pendleton as well as lands in Augusta and Highland Counties, Virginia. While the CWPMA will work to control all invasive species, the first few years will be spent focusing on five high priority species including: tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

The **West Virginia Native Plant Society** along with the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, Pendleton County Farmland Protection Board, Monongahela National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service- Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service- Northern Research Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - West Virginia Field Office, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Division of Highways, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, are in the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will establish a long-term relationship to deal with the long-term problem of invasive species management. The MOU will also create a mechanism for ongoing resource-sharing and collaboration. ❖



Garlic Mustard

Betsy Trammell

JOIN THE "2010 GARLIC MUSTARD CHALLENGE!"  
HELP US KEEP WEST VIRGINIA  
WILD AND WEED-FREE.

The Monongahela National Forest, Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA), and AmeriCorps will be sponsoring the second annual "Garlic Mustard Challenge" to provide an opportunity for people to learn about nonnative invasive species and to help remove 15,000 pounds of garlic mustard from public lands.

Garlic mustard has the ability to rapidly invade wooded habitats from disturbed areas, threatening the abundant wildflowers and diverse forest ecosystem of West Virginia. When garlic mustard is introduced to a new area, it out competes our native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil, and space. Many wildlife species that depend on spring native plants for their foliage, pollen, nectar, fruits, seeds, and roots are deprived of these essential food sources when garlic mustard becomes established, while we are deprived of the vibrant display of spring wildflowers.

Garlic mustard is now spreading throughout river flood plains, forests, roadsides, edges of woods, and along trails. There will be seven garlic mustard pulls across the state (others may be added at a later date), and we need help. You can get a group of friends together and join one of our organized pulls, or you can even pull from your own yard. Every bag counts. We will even teach you how to cook the plants that we collect (there are many popular recipes).

The "2010 Garlic Mustard Challenge" is designed to be an enjoyable and memorable experience for all with lots of great prizes. Take matters into your own hands and join us for this important event! A special thanks to our very generous partners and sponsors: Graceland Inn & Conference Center, Pepsi Cola Company, Theatre West Virginia, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Timberline Four Seasons Resort. The dates and locations for individual garlic mustard pulls are:

Big Bend Campground – April 24, 2010  
Davis & Elkins College–May 1, 2010

Seneca Rocks–May 1, 2010  
Blackwater Falls State Park–May 15, 2010

Summit Lake – May 22, 2010  
Pocahontas County 4-H Camp – May 29, 2010 ❖❖

Greenbrier State Forest–TBA

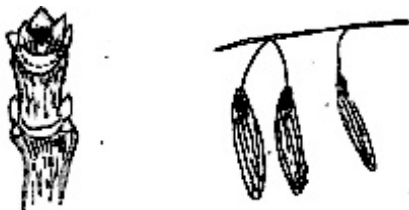
For more information, please visit us online at [http://www.afha.us/garlic\\_mustard/index.html](http://www.afha.us/garlic_mustard/index.html) or contact [cdudek@fs.fed.us](mailto:cdudek@fs.fed.us) for more information.

## HELP SAVE SEEDS

The emerald ash borer is coming, we all know about that invasive insect. We have seen the purple traps in the trees, the maps showing the spread and the photographs of dead and dying trees. But we can learn, we know from our experiences with the loss of the American chestnut and the American elms that one procedure we should instigate is building a seed bank of the species from natural areas prior to its being extirpated. For this reason a program has been instituted to collect and preserve samples of ash germplasm from throughout its range.

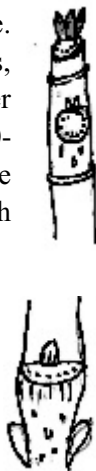
In West Virginia there are four species of *Fraxinus*:

*F. Americana* The white or Biltmore ash has vouchered specimens from a majority of West Virginia counties but most of the records are over 20 years old. This ash is found in upland areas and usually avoids wet areas an easy identifying characteristic is that the leaf scar tends to a smiling look. Seeds mature in October and November.



*F. nigra*, the black ash is found along the eastern border of West Virginia and in the eastern panhandle. The trees are found in wet sites such as swamps, streams and along river banks. The trees are shorter than any of the other ash in WV. Only reaching 40-50 feet in large trees. The terminal buds tend to be black rather than brown as in the green and white ash trees. Seeds mature from June to September.

*F. pennsylvanica*, the green or red ash is found scattered throughout the state, but again many of the records are quite old. Its preferred habitat is poorly drained soils along streams and wet woods. The leaf scar is a semicircle with a flat line across the top. Seeds mature in September through October.



## HELP SAVE THE ASH SPECIES

*F. Quadrangulata*, the blue ash has only been reported from two counties in WV. Cabell and Mason. The habitat is distinctive dry upland limestone woods. It is the easiest to identify because, as the name indicated the twigs are square with slight wings. Seeds mature from June to October.



But it is not as easy as it seems, the ash are wind pollinated which means that hybrids are encountered, which is why vouchers are important, particularly if one is uncertain as to the species. Collections should be made from natural areas, not lawns, parks and cemeteries since these often contain cultivated varieties, whose seeds are already in the collections and do not represent the native genotypes and the variation therein. National and State Forests are probably already collecting seeds so the most significant seeds you could collect would be from other areas. Seeds that are immature, insect damaged or lack embryos are not wanted so it is useful to slit a few seeds to determine if embryos are present. Seeds are best kept in paper, not plastic bags, with twigs, prior to mailing off.

Web site for information and mailing instructions: [www.ashseed.org](http://www.ashseed.org)

For the best, and intimidating, instructions available go to <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/> and then send for or download General Technical Report NRS -55 Methods for Collecting Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) Seeds. ♣

### If ash is not enough

Seeds are also being sought for: American Plum, *Prunus americana*; Common Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus Occidentalis*; Coralberry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*; Northern Honeysuckle, *Dievilla lonicera*; Broomsedge Bluestem, *Andropogon virginicus*; Riverbank Wildrye, *Elymus riparius*; Woodland Bluegrass, *Poa Sylvestris*. Information from: (517) 641-6300

Rose Lake Plant Materials Center  
7472 Stoll Road  
East Lansing MI 48823

## Randolph/Tucker/Grant Counties Outing

Kevin Campbell

During the weekend of August 21-23, 2009, Reba Hutton, Jane Whitaker, Chris Gatens, and I enjoyed partly cloudy 70 degree weather while touring areas in Randolph, Grant, Pendleton, and Taylor counties. Late summer flowers were in abundance. We noted five species of sunflowers in bloom. Mountain bugbane, a first for me, was flowering along many high elevation forest service roads including 91, 14, and 7. A large patch of *Spiranthes* sp. along Bickels Knob road-Forest Service Rd 91, regrettably, was still a couple of weeks away from full bloom. This same patch also contained several loesel's twayblades which were in seed. Gray sunflower, another plant new to me, was seen near Osceola.

### Among plants we observed were:

<i>Actea podocarpa</i>	Mountain Bugbane
<i>Actea pachypoda</i>	Dolls Eyes
<i>Dalibarda repens</i>	Star Violet
<i>Spiranthes</i> sp	
<i>Symphotrichum puniceum</i>	Purple-stem Aster
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	Flat-Top Aster
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Turtlehead
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Mottled Joe-Pye Weed
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Common Joe-Pye Weed
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Fireweed
<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	Alder-Leaved Buckthorn
<i>Zigadenus leimanthoides</i>	Oceanorus
<i>Spirea alba</i>	Pipstem, Meadowsweet
<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	Closed Gentian
<i>Selaginella rupestris</i>	Rock Spikemoss
<i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i>	Shale Barren Aster
<i>Paronychia argyrocoma</i>	Silvery Nailwort
<i>Cheilanthes lanosa</i>	Hairy Lipfern
<i>Lespedeza hirta</i>	Hairy Bushclover
<i>Gaura biennis</i>	Gaura
<i>Porteranthus trifoliatu</i>	Bowman's Root
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Tall Cone Flower
<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	Grey Sunflower
<i>H. microcephalus</i>	Small-Headed Sunflower
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem Artichoke
<i>Helianthus decapetalus</i>	Thin-Leaved Sunflower
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Woodland Sunflower
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot
<i>Monarda media</i>	Purple Bergamot
<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	Japanese Clematis
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet-Saxifrage
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Great Solomon's Seal
<i>Polygonum scandens</i>	False Buckwheat
<i>Euonymus atropurpurea</i>	Wahoo
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Kinnikinnik Raisin
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Wild Raisin ❖

## Watch for this plant in the spring

When the Tri State Chapter of the WVNPS offered to help the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission in the updating of the records from Carter Caves State Park in nearby Carter County one of the plants we looked for was French's Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon Frenchii* (Vasey) Rydb. This is the eastern most known site for this plant; however, the specific habitat of the plant is also abundant in SW West Virginia and it would be a welcome addition to our flora. The conservation assessment of the species list the following habitat "It grows mainly in shaded, mostly level sites that are moist or wet in the winter and spring under prominent sandstone overhanging ledges in well-drained sandy soil, and it is most frequently associated with drip-lines at the margin of the ledges. Frequently it is found in association with *Heuchera parviflora*. It is very similar to the common shooting star but as *D. Meadia* is a tetraploid (88) and *D. Frenchii* is a diploid (44) there is reproductive isolation. Distinguishing morphological characteristics are few, primarily the leaf of *D. Frenchii* is either cordate or abruptly reduced to a petiole like stalk while *D. meadia* has tissue gradually tapering along the petiole. Both may be found in bloom in April and May.

Reference: [http://fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/tes/ca-overview/docs/dodecatheon\\_frenchii](http://fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/tes/ca-overview/docs/dodecatheon_frenchii) Steven R. Hill



D. Meadia



D. Frenchii

Happy Searching—may you be successful and if not please suggest to the editor other species which are in adjacent states or very limited in West Virginia which merit a search. ❖

## RESOURCES

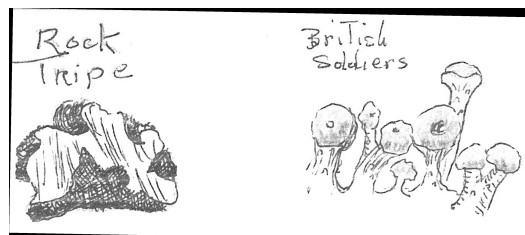
[A Guide to Nonnative Invasive plants Inventories in the North by Forest Inventory and Analysis](#) by Olson and Cholewa is available by ordering through the web page: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/> Or by writing US Forest Service, Publications Distribution, 359 Main Road, Delaware, Oh 43015-8640 Free and very good.

The 2008 workshop on lichens left a few participants with a need or desire to know more here are a few suggestions:

<http://www.lichen.com/biology.html> The links to other sites are quite good.

[Http://www.nbii.gov/nplichen](http://www.nbii.gov/nplichen) Shows that West Virginia national parks are not well explored for lichen.

Don G. Flenniken [The Macrolichens in West Virginia](#) remains the best guide for the state. ❖



# Twig Identification Workshop

Chad Kirschbaum

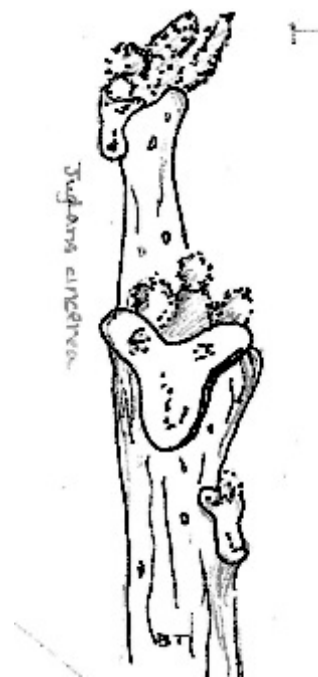
This February, 15 brave members of the West Virginia Native Plant society convened for a successful workshop on winter tree and shrub identification. (As an aside, I forgot to find specimens from the woods the day before at work, so I awoke early on Saturday and was clipping twigs by the light of my headlamp near the Forest Service office in Pedro. On the way out of the woods I failed to see a slick muddy area on the hill which sent me sliding down the hill on my backside). Anyway (I digress), the workshop was held after our winter board meeting and was hosted by the University of Charleston. Dr. Mark Watson graciously set-up a lab space for us in his biology lab on campus. We started the class by defining and viewing key features of twigs in winter condition. One of the most challenging and unique features of twig anatomy to see are the vascular bundle scars (vascular bundle scars are the marks left behind when a leaf falls from a twig and as the name implies, they are the remnants of xylem and phloem that transported sugar, water and nutrients from the leaf to the rest of the plant). These, like many features are best viewed under the microscope. To make things easier, the lab had a microscope attached to a video camera so I could display many of these hard-to-see features on a television for all the students to see. During the class, we learned how to use Harlow's Twig and Shrub key to identify unknown specimens of trees and shrubs. We keyed a species that had opposite branching and a species that had alternate branching. After keying these easy ones, Judy Dumke threw the class (and the instructor) a real challenge, *Hamamelis*, (Witchhazel) which has stipule scars making it difficult to key.

After a couple of hours in the lab the class bundled up and took a field trip to Kanawha State Forest, where we put our newly found skills to test. We learned how to identify some species of trees by their bark as well as by the buds and twigs, some of which were too high to get samples from. In we identified nearly 30 species of trees and shrubs on a short hike along a stream. The most exciting find of the day was a tall and stout sprout of *Juglans cinerea* (butternut or white walnut) which is a fairly rare species due to butternut canker disease which has decimated butternut populations throughout its range. During the trip we discovered that two of our members had contributed fruit to a genetic seed bank for the species.

All-in-all it was a fun day of winter botanizing for me and the students seem to have enjoyed the class and learned a new few things about winter woody plant identification. ❀

Editor's note When using Harlow remember that introduced trees and shrubs may not appear, for example we saw *Paulownia* in the field but it only appears in the twig key, not the fruit key; the shrubby *Lonicera* species (bush honeysuckle) are only found to genus in the twigs and not at all in the fruit. ❀

Butternut twig



## Mason County Records Christopher Gatens

*Hibiscus laevis* Halberd leaved rose mallow Pond  
5 McClintic Wildlife Station August 7, 2009

*Gymnocladus dioica* Kentucky coffee tree pond 5  
McClintic Wildlife Station August 7, 2009

*Ratibida pinnata* Gray Coneflower McClintic Wildlife  
Station August 8, 2009

*Arundinaria gigantea* Great Cane Rick Smith  
residence off Rt. 2. Ashton March 4, 2010 ❀

## Highlights of the January Board Meeting

On January 16 the first board meeting of the year was held at the University of Charleston, Charleston WV.

- ❖ The new web master will be Matt Fox
- ❖ The membership folder will be revised and reprinted
- ❖ The Kanawha Valley Chapter was continued on an inactive status.
- ❖ Contributions were authorized to the WVU herbarium, \$150 and the MU herbarium \$100.
- ❖ The fiscal condition remains sound
- ❖ P.J. Harmon's archival files have been transferred to Kevin Campbell.
- ❖ Future events include a board meeting to be held at the Wildflower Pilgrimage, all members invited; earth day April 24, at the Clay Center in Charleston.

### THANK YOU BETSY TRAMELL

For preparing all of the illustration in this issue of Native Notes , including the logo of Kates Mountain Clover

### Welcome to new members

Pamela Byrne, Elkins WV  
Janet Deal, Ashton WV  
Elaine Strauch, Wheeling WV  
Willis and Betsy Tramell, Charleston WV

### DUES NOTICE

If you have not yet sent your dues for 2010 they will still be accepted. Please send them to Mae Ellen Wilson at 1525 Hampton Road, Charleston WV, 25314. The amount will be found on the back of this mailing.

## West Virginia Native Plant Society Officers

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[lawrencebeckerle@yahoo.com](mailto:lawrencebeckerle@yahoo.com)  
(304)-742-3639

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2010 DUES

Regular membership-----\$12  
Student Membership----- \$8  
Life membership----- \$20  
Tri-State Chapter membership \$ 6

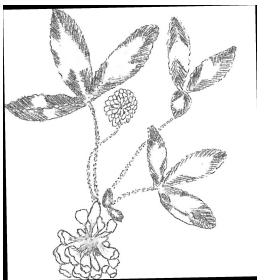
You must be a member of the statewide WV-NPS in order to be a member of a local chapter. Make your check payable to “West Virginia Native Plant Society”. Just write one check and state if you are joining the Tri State Chapter. The Treasurer will distribute Chapter dues.

Send dues to:

Mae Ellen Wilson  
WVNPS Treasurer  
1525 Hampton Road  
Charleston, WV 25314

WV Native Plant Society  
Attn: Helen Gibbins  
6128 Gideon Rd.  
Huntington WV 25705

[WWW.WVNPS.ORG](http://WWW.WVNPS.ORG)



TRIFOLIUM VIRGINICUM  
Kate's Mountain Clover