NATIVE



NOTES

Kate's Mountain Clover*

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19:1

APRIL 2011

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

Glade Creek Hike Saturday, April 16, 2011 New River Gorge near Beckley

Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (Rain or Shine)

Leader: Chris Gatens Phone: 304/458-2533

Degree of Difficulty: Light to moderate on a former railroad grade along a high quality stream.

Hike Description: This hike will be led on a trail that traverses along scenic Glade Creek of the New River. The trail offers a wide variety flowering plants, song birds, and a tour through a classic, mixed- mesophytic forest in Appalachia.

Provisions: Plan to bring the appropriate shoes and gear in case of inclement weather conditions. I would recommend bringing water for the trail and each participant should pack the appropriate snacks and a lunch for the duration of the hike. \clubsuit

Directions

A) From Charleston, WV, take I-77 South (I-64 east) to Beckley, WV.

At Beckley, take I-64 East at the split toward the direction of Lewisburg.

Drive 3 miles and take Exit 124 to Eisenhower Drive, toward Route 19. Route 19 is Eisenhower Drive.

Take Route 19 North about 3 miles to 41 North toward Prince, WV. Route 41 North takes you into the New River Gorge.

B) Directions: From I-79 (Beckley-Summersville Exit), follow 19 South toward Beckley and take the Bradley Exit, staying on 19 South approximately 4-5 miles.

Take 19 South to 41 North toward Prince, WV. Route 41 North takes you into the New River Gorge.

A) & B) above Drive Route 41 North approximately 3 miles to a brown "Glade Creek" National Park Service Sign. Take the gravel road to the right to the end approximately 5 miles to the parking area for the Glade Creek Trail. *

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

West Virginia Native Plant Society Native Notes April 2011

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The area of the hike is also an area in which the National Park Service is working to control hemlock woolly adelgid. Trees treated in 2007 have a blue dot at the base, those is 2009 have a red dot while 2010 received a white dot. During the hike you may be able to see the effects of the treatment for this non native pest which is so decimating the hemlocks of West Virginia. To obtain a downloadable Hemlock Report from the National Park Service please e-mail John Perez at johnperez@nps.gov.



Hemlock

Bourd Meeting April 16th 2011 6 PM Microtel, 1001 South Eisenhower Drive, Beckley, WV

Following the hike there will be a board meeting at the Microtel in Beckley, it is approximately 20-25 minutes from the site of the hike, directions will be provided to those attending the hike. For those not attending the hike please check a Beckley map or call the hotel at 304-255-2200.

For those wishing overnight accommodations the following are available:

Microtel Inn -1001 S. Eisenhower Drive, Beckley - 304/255-2200 or Call 1-800-695-8284 to make reservations. Call the Inn, ASAP as no block has been reserved.

Additional Hotels: Country Inns and Suites – Harper Road -Beckley- 304/252-5100 Sleep Inn – Airport Road -Beaver -304/255-4222 Hampton Inn –Harper Park Dr. – Beckley – 304/255-6238 �

February 2011 Workshop Report

On February 5, 2011, a workshop was held at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon WV., lead by Dr. Kathy Gregg. There were two components to the afternoon, both enjoyable.

The session started with a lecture revealing why some orchids do not bloom every year, or even appear above ground in a vegetative condition. Dr. Gregg has been doing field studies on the flowering of the orchid, *Cleistes bifaria*, spreading pogonia, for more than ten years. She uses wire markers for orchid locations and then revisites the research site to see how each individual plant responds. Environmental conditions were found to be the main factors determining if the orchid bloomed or appeared. Dormancy is found in many species and most of them are orchids, according to Dr. Gregg.

The workshop was on keying flowers to the family level, using Strausbaugh and Core. The group broke into pairs. Each pair used a microscope and dissecting tools to examine thawed sample plants. The microscopes were an essential tool for this exercise. Without the microscope features such as the position of the ovary can be difficult to determine. The frozen specimens were a very good resource on a cold February day and made the coming of spring even more desirable. Freezing specimens to have teaching material available, no matter what the season, is certainly to be recommended and appreciated. All present learned from the experience and were most grateful to Dr. Gregg.

Romie Hughert

Join the "2011 Garlic Mustard Challenge!" Keeping West Virginia "Wild and Weed Free"

The Monongahela National Forest, Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA), and Potomac Highland Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (PCWPMA) are offering an opportunity to make a difference in the forests across West Virginia. during our third annual "Garlic Mustard Challenge." Experience quality time outdoors, learn about invasive species, have fun, and also help to remove a staggering amount of garlic mustard - over a ton from our forests.

Garlic Mustard has gained much attention in recent years for its ability to rapidly invade wooded habitats from disturbed areas. Garlic mustard threatens 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, and soil.

Garlic Mustard is a particularly nasty, non-native invasive species that rapidly spreads into disturbed wooded habitats and is making its way throughout the beautiful and diverse forest ecosystem of West Virginia. Those favorite native wildflowers which we strain to spot nestled in early spring occur in the same habitat as garlic mustard. Garlic mustard can quickly take over an area pushing out our native plants such as spring beauty, toothworts, Dutchman's breeches, and trilliums. Many wildlife species that depend on spring native plants for their pollen, nectar, fruits, seeds, and roots are deprived of these important food sources when garlic mustard becomes established.

Originally introduced by European settlers for medicinal purposes and for use in cooking, garlic mustard is now spreading throughout river floodplains, forests, roadsides, edges of woods, and along trails. That's why we have teamed up to challenge you to do your part to keep West Virginia "Wild and Weed Free." A number of garlic mustard pulls are being hosted throughout West Virginia and we need your help! You can get

a group of friends together and join one of our organized pulls, organize a pull party where you live, or even pull from your own yard. Every bag counts. And, a trophy will be given to those that pull the most! We will even teach you how to cook the plants that we collect (there are many popular recipes).



Figure 1. The world's most

prestigious award, "The Garlic Mustard Challenge MVP" (Most Valuable Puller) award

Please join us for the "2011 Garlic Mustard Challenge" and together we can stop the spread of one of the most invasive species found in our state. The dates and locations are:

- Summit Lake-April 30th
- ♦ Ice Mountain Preserve April 30th
- ♦ Greenbrier State Forest May 7th
- ♦ Seneca Rocks Discovery Center May 7th
- ♦ Sugar Grove Naval Base- May 13th
- ♦ Big Bend Campground- May 14th
- Fernow Experimental Forest May 20th
- ♦ Greenbrier State Forest- May 21st
- ♦ Blue Bend Campground- May 21st- 22nd*
- ♦ Pocahontas 4-H Camp- May 28th

There will be great prizes thanks to our generous partners and sponsors: AFHA, C.J. Maggie's Restaurant, Dick's Sporting Goods, Elkins Cinema 7, Good Energy Foods, Highland Prospects, Kroger, Mainline Books, Seneca Caverns, Steer Family Steakhouse, Theatre West Virginia, and White Grass.

All of these pulls begin at 10:00 a.m. (contact <u>dpowell@tnc.org</u> to learn more about the Ice Mountain pull) and more details will be available soon. Please check the website at: <u>http://www.phcwpma.org/GarlicMustard.cfm</u> to see maps of the locations, get updates and report your bags. Or, contact Charissa Bujak at 304-636-1800 ext. 285. Take matters into your own hands and join us for this important event!

Cynthia Sandeno



Garlic Mustard Betsy Tramell

Don't Add Exotics to W

When I was in a big box store recently I saw "wildflower mixtures," because the type was hard to read I bought two and, using a lens, tallied the contents with the WV Atlas. 2 were native to WV, 1 was native to the US, but not to WV, 5 were exotics, and 18 were not listed at all. So only 2 of 26 or 7.7 % were native to WV, of course, all were native to planet earth! The seeds came from Holland and the packages contained ca. 94% inert material. These packages could easily add unwanted weeds to WV.

Be alert buy seeds and plants only when you know what you are doing and don't be misled by labels that say "wildflowers" "native" or other unclear appellations. Judy Dumke

The <u>http://www.WVNPS</u>.org web site lists some suppliers of native plants which you might wish to consult.

West Virginia Native Plant Society Native Notes April 2011

Mints of Distinction in West Virginia

When Thomas Meehan, a Philadelphia botanist, died in 1901, I'm sure he went to the big forest in the sky feeling proud that Nathaniel Lord Britton (1859-1934) named a genus of plants in his honor. I'd also bet that he didn't now how wonderful his namesake plant was. In fact, most people don't know how wonderful *Meehania cordata* is.

An introduction to a wonderful plant

Charles and Martha Oliver are proprietors of the Primrose Path Nursery in Scottdale, PA, and are dear friends of mine. I'd noticed *Meehania cordata* listed in their catalog. After reading their description and hearing them extol the virtues of this charming little plant was, I asked them to please bring me one on their upcoming visit. I'd requested one the year before, but it always seemed they were sold out. So I was emphatic that I must have one, and intimated should they not bring me one, they might end up sleeping in my barn that chilly autumn night.

In My Own Backyard

When hunting *Tiarella* in a woodland area near my farm. We descended a summit into the foggy creek bottom when I heard Charles laughing hysterically behind me on the trail. I turned to see what he found so amusing and saw him pointing to the ground. There, all around him, the ground was covered with "Meehan;s Mint." Talk about getting caught not "practicing what you preach." Me, who in all of my lectures on native plants makes a point of telling people to "look in your own backyard!" Well, after I recovered from my initial embarrassment, we looked further and found the entire West facing slope of the hill down to the creek bed was a veritable carpet of dark, glossy green, cordate (heart-shaped, hence the specific epithet cordata) leaves, vining over rocks and decaying tree limbs, basking in the deep shade of the Hemlock and Oak woods above the water.

Starting From Cuttings

I took some cuttings, not knowing whether they would root so late in the season, but I had a gut feeling of optimism. Sure enough, they rooted in a matter of weeks. The following spring, I checked in on the population and found that the new growth was thick and lovely. In June, I went back to observe the flowers and found a sea of lilac, pink, and lavender trumpet like blooms at the tips of the stems. They reminded me very much of Scutellaria, another member of the mint family and close relative of Meehania. Now, having many plants from the rooted cuttings that I overwintered under a dark bench, I proceeded to plant them under a small grove of Lilacs and Viburnums. They responded to the rich humus that had accumulated under these older shrubs and almost immediately started to wind their way around on the ground.

Mint by Relation Only

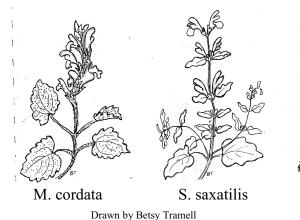
Taxonomically speaking, *Meehania cordata* is a member of the Lamiaceae (Mint) family. In North America, *Meehania cordata* is a monotypic (single) species in the genus. Its reported range is from southwest Pennsylvania to North Carolina and Tennessee. Its heart-shaped leaves are on the diminutive side, averaging $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide at the petiole and are about 1" long. I suspect that it's hardy to zone 4, maybe even 3.

There is one other *Meehania* species in cultivation, *Meehania urticifolia*, *Meehania cordata's* Asian cousin which grows in the wooded mountain forests near the Honshu area of Japan. The specific epithet, urticifolia, refers to the nettle like foliage.

Cultivation Considerations

Meehania cordata is one of the best plants I can think of for those dark and foreboding corners of the garden where there isn't enough light for most other plants. Even if it didn't have the added benefit of those brilliant, colorful flowers, I would recommend it as a very useful groundcover. Unlike many other members of the mint family, *Meehania cordata* could NEVER be considered invasive or even aggressive. It's also very easy to propagate from stem cuttings and by division.*

Barry Glick



Editor's Comment

As Berry so correctly noted this plant is closely related to the Scutellarias. There is one in particular that causes confusion, rock skullcap, *Scutellaria saxatilis*. Because both are on the rare plant lists of some states the differences are important. *S. Saxatilis* has a calyx with a protuberance on the top, *Meehania* does not. Flowers on *Meehania* are 2.5-3.2 cm long while *S. Saxatilis* flowers are 1.2-1.8 cm long. *Meehania* has a leaf base that is usually more deeply cordate. *Meehania* is listed as endangered in Pa. and threatened in Tenn; *S. Saxatilis* is listed as endangered in In., Md., Pa. and threatened in Ky. and Tenn.

In West Virginia *Meehania cordata* is known from thirteen counties currently and there are old records from twenty other counties. Rock Skullcap is known from 8 counties currently and 4 older records, all of which are from the eastern or southern border of West Virginia. We are indeed fortunate to have these shade loving, low growing mints in our midst.

Looking at Lysimachia

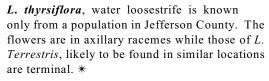
When one thinks of the primulaceae the pots of small plants that each spring bloom in supermarkets come to mind. However, there are native and non native members of the family in West Virginia. Such as the genus is *Lysimachia*. With twelve species present it is likely that you will encounter some of them. To help in distinguishing them the listing below will put the species in what may be a logical set of catagories.

Obligate Wetland Species

These will be found in wetlands over 99% of the time.

L. hybrida, the lowland loosestrife is found widely scattered on the borders of West Virginia, known from 2 counties currently and historically from 4 others. The leaves are not punctate, narrow(less than 2 cm), flat, green beneath. Numerous lateral branches mark this plant.

L. terrestris, Bulbous Loosestrife, is known from 6 counties currently and 12 more historically, primarily in the mountainous eastern and northern counties. The leaves on this species are punctate, and the flowers are in terminal racemes with very tiny bracts. The petals of the flowers exhibit black lines. Long rhizomes and bulblets in the leaf axils allow vegetative reproduction and clonal populations. *

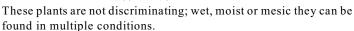


Facultative Wetland

This species is more likely to be found in a wetland than not.

L. quadriflora. Four-Flowered Loosestrife, is currently only known from Jefferson county but 3 other widely scattered locations were reported in the past. Generally considered to be a midwestern species this plant has leaves that ascend with rolled under leaf margins.*

Facultative



L. ciliata, fringed loosestrife, is one of the more common species, being found in 10 current counties and 34 others historically. It is the petioles that are conspicuously fringed, giving the plant its name. The almost inch wide flowers are axillary in the opposite leaves.



L. X producta is a fertile hybrid of L. quadrifolia and

L. terrestris. The morphology is usually intermediate, thus there is a range of appearances; backcrossing and intergrading with parental species also occurs. Currently 3 counties record this hybrid and 3 historic records have been identified.

L. lanceolata Lance-leaved loosestrife, has been recorded throughout the state in 8 counties currently and 15 older county records exist. The opposite leaves of this plant are very narrow with no or very small petioles on the mid stem. The flowers are solitary in the axils of the upper leaves. *

L. quadrifolia, whorled loosestrife, is the species most familiar to residents of WV. Recorded in 15 counties currently and 32 in the past, it is probably present in every county in the state. This small plant with four whorled leaves from the axils of which yellow flowers appear is a common midsummer bloomer.*



L. tonsa, southern loosestrife, is only known from 4 old records in the southern part of the state. Is very similar to *L. ciliata* but the petioles are not ciliate and the rhizomes are short and freely rooting so that clumps of the plants appear. Both *L. tonsa* and *L. ciliata* show variations in chromosome numbers suggesting a polyploid population.



Non Native Species

L. Japonica, Japanese loosestrife, has been reported from 4 south western counties and there is one old record from Kanawha County. Records for the United States show it in only 3 states.

L. vulgaris, garden loosestrife, is currently known from 10 counties and there is one historic record. The majority of the records are from along the Ohio River where it seems to have escaped. The flowers are in a terminal raceme and also in axillary racemes. The whorled or opposite leaves are punctate, and the plants appear to be hairy. *



L. nummularia, moneywort, is a pest plant growing in woodlands, lawns, cemeteries, and disturbed places. It is sometimes known as creeping Charlie or creeping Jenny, terms which describes its habit. It is low to the ground, rooting as it goes. The leaves are round, thus moneywort for the coin like apperance. When the yellow flowers appear it can be attractive and distinctive. * •

*Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States. Canada and the British

Possessions. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 2: 711. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Scanned by Omnitek Inc.



West Virginia Native Plant Society Native Notes







WV Native Plant Society Members on the move Working to expand the knowledge of West Virginia's Flora

2011 TRI-STATE CHAPTER NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY HIKES 2011 SCHEDULE

<u>April 9th-Mill Creek Area, Milton, WV</u>. Meet at 8:30 am at the I-64 park and ride in Milton, WV. SE corner of Exit 28 (Cabell County, WV)

April 30 -East Lynn WMA, Wayne, WV.

Meet at the Campground's East Fork Nature Trail at 8:30 am. Hike to see an American Chestnut tree. (Wayne County, WV) Call for directions.

July 30^h-East Lynn WMA, Wayne, WV.

Meet at the Lick Creek Boat Launch Picnic Area. 8:30 am (Wayne County, WV) Call for directions.

<u>August 20th Greenbottom Wildlife</u>

<u>Management Area (Swamp), WV</u>. Meet at 8:30 at the board walk parking area. (Cabell & Mason Counties, WV) Off W.V. Rt. 2 ca. 11 miles north of Huntington.

September 17th Crooked Creek Nature

Preserve, Lewis County KY. This is managed for the restoration of prairie and savannah communities. Fires are planned and permission for entry is required.. This represents an opportunity to see a rare community type and active management in a joint trip with the Kentucky Native Plant Society. As this requires the trip leaders to drive a distance a minimum of ten persons is required. Please call to register if you plan to attend. *****

Flora of Kanawha State Forest

Wildflowers, Trees, Shrubs, Ferns and Grasses

Flora of Kanawha State Forest (KSF) represents Margaret Denison's attempt to catalog most of the species of flowering plants in the Kanawha State Forest.

Born in 1917, earning a B.S. in Elementary Education from Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston) and a M.A. in Biological Science from Marshall University, Mrs. Denison taught science and botany in Kanawha County, WV, schools. She led Walks for the Kanawha State Forest Foundation well into her eighties and her enticing lore and stories of the plants always drew a crowd.

Ms. Denison authored "A List of Flowering Plants of Kanawha State Forest" in collaboration with KSF Superintendent Osbra L. Eye. "Ferns and Fern Allies Found in Kanawha State Forest" was a study by Mrs. Denison and her students with student sketches of the ferns. She also collected grass specimens from KSF which she sent to West Virginia University. These studies inspired The Kanawha State Forest Foundation to republish her original 1966 work. From initiation in 2002 to the final proof reading in 2011 the work continued as a collaborative effort. Emily and Bill Grafton updated the scientific nomenclature in 2005; Diana Green digitalized the original work and envisioned the book design; Dr. Donna Ford-Wertz sent us the list of KSF Poacae specimens at WVU Herbarium; University of Charleston loaned Osbra Eye's 1966 color slides of flowers and grasses taken in KSF; West Virginia University permitted the use of images from "Flora of West Virginia"; Jim Waggy wrote much of the supplemental material; Carolyn Barker supplied color photos and proof read with the sharpest eyes as the nomenclature was updated using "Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia"; and Betsy Trammell created the drawings for the back cover. Members of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation and Margaret Denison's family helped and encouraged us through all the years.

You may purchase Flora of Kanawha State Forest for \$14.95 at the Kanawha State Forest office, Taylor Books, Charleston, WV or the West Virginia Book Company, http://www.wvbookco.com, (304) 342 1848. ISBN 9780615440262.

All proceeds go to the Kanawha State Forest Foundation. 💠

Mae Ellen Wilson

Contacts – 304-523-1049 or 606-739-9715

West Virginia Native Plant Society Native Notes

News of the West Virginia Native Plant Society

Highlights of the Winter Board Meeting

- \$75 was authorized to purchase materials for outreach activities
- \$150 was authorized for printing a brochure, "Fighting Invasive Plants in WV", WVNPS will receive credit and copies.
- Board and members were encouraged to track activities related to invasive control and to report to the PWPMA.
- Obtaining a DUNS number will be investigated
- WVNPS brochure has been reprinted.
- Next board meeting will be 16 April in connection with a New River Gorge Field Trip.
- 74 paid members in 2010 plus 16 life members

Welcome to New Members

Charrisa Bujak, Elkins, WV Randy King, Walkersville, WV Jonathan Pomp, Craigsville, WV Freda Shilot, Kenova WV

Editor's Note

This issue has been sent in an envelope instead of the previous folded copy. The intent is to reduce the wear and tears that had began to be evident in the last few issues. As a result the dues information has been placed where the mailing address had been. The cost of mailing in the envelope is comparable to the folded method. If you wish to comment on the change please contact the editor

West Virginia Native Plant Society Officers

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EVENTS OF INTEREST

A Garden of Eden: Medicinal and Edible plants of the Appalachian Mountains. Meigs County Ohio April 14, 2011 seating limited to 100. Contact information http://www.porterbrooknativeplants.com

Kentucky Native Plant Society Wild Flower Weekend. April 29-May 1 2011 Natural Bridge State Park http://www.knps.org

Joint Meeting of the 2nd Kentucky Invasive Species Conference and the 13th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference. May 3-5 2011 Hilton Lexington, Downtown Lexington Ky. <u>Http://www.ca.uky.edu/invasives</u>

50th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage. Blackwater Falls State Park Davis WV **May 5-8, 2011.** See <u>Http://www.Blackwaterfalls.com/special.htm</u> Contact 304-259-5216.

2011 Joint meeting Botanical Society of America NE section, Torrey Botanical Society and Philadelphia Botanical Society. June 19-23 Ithaca College Ithaca NY limit 54, deadline May 10. For information contact Larry Klotz <u>lhklot@ship.edu</u> WVNPS Hike. April 16 New River Gorge

WV State Park Wild Flower events:

April 15-17 Redbud Weekend Cacapon Resort St. Park

April 22-24 Wild Flower Weekend New River Gorge and Hawks Nest State Park

April 23 Osbra Eye Memorial Walks Kanawha State Forest

April 24 Wildflower Walks Babcock State Park

See http://www.wvstateparks.com/Hikes Walks.html.

Flora Quest. April 29-May 1 Shawnee State Forest, Ohio http://www.flora-quest.com

Open House Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation June 26-27, Pittsburgh Pa. <u>Http://www.Huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu</u>

Western Pennsylvania Gardening and Landscape Symposium April 16th Chatham College Pittsburgh Pa. <u>Http://www.landscapesymposium.org</u>

Note all 15,413 pages of *SIDA* are now available at <u>www.biodiversitylibrary.org</u>

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You must be a member of the statew	ve Notes by maile-mail ride WVNPS in order to be a member of a local chapter. West Virginia Native Plant Society, including local chapter dues, endar year
Send dues to:	
Mae Ellen Wilson	
WVNPS Treasurer	
1525 Hampton Road Charleston WV 25314	