



Kate's Mountain Clover

#### WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25:1 SPRING/SUMMER 2017

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✤ ♣ ♥ visit us at www.wvnps.org ♥ ♥ ♥

## June 25 and 26 2017

See the Sods and Beautiful Bogs.

The splendors of Tucker County



Wood Lily

The WVNPS will have field trips to several popular botanical areas in Tucker County, including Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods during the last weekend of June. We will be looking at high elevation bogs and other habitats home to many interesting plants such as jacobs ladder, alder-leaved buckthorn, black ash, nemopanthus, oceanorus, purple clematis, wood lily, kidney leaf twayblade, three-toothed cinquefoil, grass of parnassus, golden club, buckbean, and, hopefully, several species of orchids. Lodging and camping is available in Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls State Parks. Red Creek wildlife management cabin located at Laneville, WV will also be available. The cabin has a capacity for 10 people in five bunkbeds. There may be a \$15.00/night per person charge. RSVP Kevin Campbell at 304-488-4635 or kevin.campbell@wv.gov for a spot. All meals will be on your own. As some of the locations are damp boots may be advisable, as may bug spray.

Saturday June 25, 2017: In the morning there will be a walk to Abes Run in Canaan Valley State Park. Meet in the parking lot at the Nature Center in the park at 9:00 am. The Nature Center is located on the park entrance road leading to the lodge. After lunch, which you may have in the lodge or picnic in the park, we will depart from the Nature Center parking lot at 12:30 pm and car caravan to the Dolly Sods Wilderness area, stopping at various points for short walks/overlooks.

Sunday June 26, 2017: We will depart from the Canaan Valley State Park Nature Center at 9:00 am, caravanning to our last walk of the weekend which will be at Olson Bog on Backbone Mountain. As the last half mile of this trip is somewhat rough we will vehicle share to reduce the number of vehicles at the site and insure that the vehicles which go are those suitable for the road (high clearance). We will travel north through Davis on SR 32 and at Thomas, WV turn south on US 219 to FR 18, which is a left just after starting down off Backbone Mt. The bog is a couple of miles out this road and on the right.

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## Hold the Dates September 29 - October 1 2017

Planning for 2017 Tri-State Annual Conference is underway! September 29 - Oct 1. The Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia Native Plant Societies will meet together at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, W VA. https://nctc.fws.gov/campus/facilities.html

## **Tentative Schedule**

Friday, September 29, 2017 Afternoon field trips, invasive removals and workshops Evening speaker, Wesley Knapp NC Natural Heritage Dept. Formerly of Maryland Natural Heritage Evening social and bonfire

Saturday, September 30, 2017 Half-day & full-day field trips Half-day workshops Evening speaker Rodney Bartgis Evening social and bonfire

Sunday, October 1, 2017 Half-day field trips Half-day workshops



Entrance to Center Auditorium



Grounds of Center

Preliminary Field Trip locations include: Snavely's Ford Trail, Antietam National Battlefield,

Swamp, Ferry Hill, Taylor's landing, Catoctin Mountain,

Cranesville Cool Springs

Preserve, Snyder's landing, Ice Mountain, Green Briar State Park, Yankauer Preserve, Appalachian Trail, Thompson Wildlife Management Area, Short Hill-Virginia portion of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Shanondale Wildlife Management Area and more

Workshops so far:

Designing your Garden with Native Plant Communities, Vince Vizachero Maintaining a Field Journal Sketchbook, Lara Call Gastinger iNaturalist Laura Sebastianelli

Accommodations: The NCTC has very nice single and double (limited availability) rooms. If you stay on campus, all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch will be provided. Nightly lodging and meals will be approximately \$150/night.

Off campus housing is available in nearby hotels (approx. \$100/night). Those staying off campus must either provide their own meals or purchase meals a la carte. Some indoor venues within the NCTC do not allow outside food.

For further information, as available (not conference registration) http://vnps.org/tri-state-native-plant-conference-2017 https://www.mdflora.org/event/2323847

Registration will open 1 June 2017 see the above web sites to connect to conference site 💠

Native Notes Spring-Summer 2017

West Virginia Native Plant Society 2

## April 8, 2017 was a Good Day

That was the day that the West Virginia Native Plant Society held a workshop at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge with Harvey Ballard on the violets of West Virginia. The weather was fine, the presenter was terrific and specimens for verification appeared in just enough numbers to show potential sources of misidentifications but did not overwhelm.

The presentation included information on the ways to identify violets including information on the overall biology of the genus, *Viola* and even the history of research. Dr. Ballard is using a multipronged approached to look at what is going on, or not going on, with this group. Working with common gardens studies, trips ranging from front yards to tropical montane forests, molecular techniques, SEM images, studying reproductive quirks, multiple graduate students, and just plain persistence a more coherent view of these plants is emerging.



Members can help in several ways. When collecting specimens try to include both cleistogamous and chasmogamous flowers, in specimens

try to include both cleistogamous and chasmogamous flowers, in the stemmed plants the flowers are most important but for the stemless plants try to get the seeds (these can be placed in packets to keep from being lost), on the other hand seeds are always useful. This may mean returning to the same plant throughout a season. Collect multiple plants if there seems to be significant variation, you may have located a hybrid swarm.

Harvey Ballard evaluating herbarium sheet

You can, and should, post photographs to the inaturalist violet reporting center. <u>https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/violets-of-north-america</u>, so that everyone can see what is going on and the violet community grow larger.

WVNPS is grateful for the efforts of Harvey Ballard, Kevin Campbell (who arranged for the event), Donna Ford-Werntz and Jim Vanderhorst (for bringing specimens) and the Ohio River Islands NWR for the use of their facilities. Page 9 has Dr. Ballard's receipt for violet jelly.

## Board Endorses HR 1054

The Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion Act

At the April meeting of the board HR 1054 was unanimously supported and instructions given to include information in Native Notes. This bill in the US House of Representatives is drawn to increase support for the botanical sciences through additional funding and recognition. There are provisions for additional funding for federal agencies to hire botanical science practitioners, provide for competitive grants, help with student loans, support greater inclusion in Interior Department programs such as the BLM seed gathering and native plant propagation efforts, requiring to the extant practical, the use of native materials in federal transportation projects and construction, foster interagency co-operation, and establish botanical programs similar to the required state Wildlife Actions Plans.

For further information please contact: <u>info@plantconservationalliance.org.</u>

Page 10-11 of this edition of Native Notes includes additional information

Native Notes Spring-Summer 2017

## WVNPS June 24-26 2016 Trip to Pendleton and Randolph Counties

### Kevin Campbell and Judi White

The highlight of our weekend was an outing to Reddish Knob located on Shenandoah Mountain in the George Washington National Forest. This mountain on the border with Virginia is host to several unique plants that one seldom sees elsewhere in West Virginia such as Wild Liveforever, Mountain Fetterbush, and Corymbed Spiraea. We could not locate another one, the Dwarf Trillium, and our hoped for Turkey Beard turned out to be Fly Poison.

The list was cross checked with the Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia http://https/org/AtlasAd.pdf/ CR indicates there is no record of the plant in Webster county in the Atlas and OR indicates an old record needing to be updated T means state listed, ? means that further research is needed.



Rocky Mountain landscape With Wild Liveforever

## Some of the plants we saw on Saturday in Pendleton County were:

## Reddish Knob Pendleton County



Fly Poison

Amianthium muscitoxicum



White Flowered Heuchera

Pieris floribunda T? Mountain Fetterbush Porteranthus trifoliatus Hylotelephium telephioides Wild Liveforever Populus tremuloides OR Quaking Aspen Menziesia pilosa Allegheny Menziesia Heuchera alba T? White-Flowered Heuchera Aquilegia canadensis Smilax herbacea Rhododendron prinophyllum Lysimachia quadrifolia Whorled Loosestrife Melanthium parviflorum Aralia nudicaulis Clintonia borealis Phacelia bipinnatifida CR Fern-Leaf Phacelia Acer spicatum Sorbus americana Salix humulis var. tristis CR Dwarf Gray Willow Quercus ilicifolia Photinia melanocarpa Aruncus dioicus Corylus cornuta C. Americana Tragopogon dubius ? Large Goat's Beard Sambucus racemosa Three-Seeded Sedge Carex trisperma Actaea pachypoda Danthonia compressa Allegheny Fly-Back

## Traveling down the mountain along Reddish Knob Road

Pinus pungens Pinus rigida Pinus strobus

Fly Poison

**Table Mountain Pine** Pitch Pine White Pine

Bowman's Root

Wild Columbine

? Bunch-Flower

Wild Sarsaparilla

Yellow Clintonia

Mountain Maple

Black Chokeberry

Beaked Hazelnut

OR Goatsbeard

**OR Hazelnut** 

**Red Elderberry** 

Doll's Eyes

Mountain Ash

Scrub Oak

**Carrion Flower** 

Rose Azalea

Parthenium integrifolium

**CR** American Feverfew

Tephrosia virginiana Dioscorea quaternata Lobelia spicata var. spicata Penstemon canescens Iris verna Ionactis linarifolius Ceanothus americanus Viola pedata Hypoxis hirsuta

OR Goat's Rue Four-Leaved Wild Yam **CR** Spiked Lobelia Gray Beardtongue Spring Iris **OR Stiff Aster** New Jersey Tea **Bird-Foot Violet** Yellow Stargrass



Corymbed Spirea

Spirea betuilifolia var.coy	mposa? Corymbed Spirea
Lyonia ligustrina	Maleberry
Viburnum recognitum	CR Smooth Arrowwood
Baptisia tinctoria	Wild Indigo
Melampyrum lineare	Cow-Wheat
Asclepias tuberosa ssp. in	terior OR Butterfly Weed
Carex hirsutella	Hirsute Sedge
Houstonia longifolia	Summer Bluets
Lespedeza hirta	Hairy Bushclover

Lespedeza repens	CR Creeping Bushclover
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac
Dicanthelium latifolium	CR Panic Grass
Dicanthelium dicotomun	n CR Bushy Panic Grass
Oclemena acuminata	Mountain Aster

### AT Thorn Springs Camp:



Rue Spleenwort

Liparis liliifolia Lily-Leaved Twayblade Paxistima canbyi TF Canby's Mountain Lover OR Rue Spleenwort Asplenium ruta-murar ia Asplenium resiliens Black-Stem Spleenwort Asplenium rhizophyllum Walking Fern Pellaea atropurpurea OR Purple Cliffbrake Brachyelytrum erectum OR Bearded Shorthusk Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum Watercress Veronica anagallis-aquatica R Water Speedwell Ranunculus repens **Creeping Buttercup** Laportea canadensis **OR Wood Nettle** Erodium cicutarium OR Stork's Bill Anagallis arvensis **Common Pimpernel** Plantago virginica **OR Dwarf Plantain** Carex frankii Frank's Sedge Carex torta CR Twisted Sedge Festuca subverticillata Nodding Fescue Some plants seen on the

Spruce Knob trail:



Southern Mountain Cranberry

Vacinium erythrocarpum

CR Southern MountainCranberry

Sambucus racemosa	Red Elderberry
Anaphalis margaritacea	Pearly Everlasting
Menziesia pilosa	Allegheny Menziesia
Ribes glandulosum	Skunk
Current Fragaria virginiana	OR Wild Strawberry
Dicentra eximia	Bleeding Heart
Acer spicatum	Mountain Maple
Hypericum perforatum	Common St. John's-Wort
Prunus virginiana	Chokecherry
llex montana	Mountain Holly
Sorbus americana	Mountain Ash
Trillium undulatum	Painted Trillium
Nemopanthus mucronat	us Wild Holly
Pteridium aquilinum var.	latiusculum CR Bracken
Rhododendron prinophy	llum Rose Azalea



Bush Honeysuckle
Diervilla lonicera OR Bush Honeysuckle

### Randolph County. These were our last two stops Plants seen on the trail around Spruce Knob Lake:

Viburnum nudum var. cas	ssinoides Wild Raisin
Menyanthes trifoliata Ilex verticillata	Buckbean OR Winterberry Holly
Symplocarpus foetidus	Skunk Cabbage
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold
Platanthera grandiflora La	rge Purple Fringed Orchid
Osmunda cinnamomea	OR Cinnamon Fern
Hypericum prolificum	Shrubby St. John's-wort
Drosera rotundifolia	T? Sundew
Dryopteris cristata	OR Crested Shield Fern
Solidago uliginosa	CR Bog Goldenrod
Geum aleppicum Veratrum viride	T Yellow Avens False Hellebore
Acer pensylvanicum Cornus canadensis	Striped Maple T Dwarf Cornel
Cornus canadensis	T Dwart Corner
Carex gynandra	Nodding Sedge
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush Blueberry
Schoenoplectus tabernae	emontani Great Bulrush
Potentilla recta	Upright Cinquefoil
Vaccinium macrocarpon	T, OR Large Cranberry

# Some plants observed at the Sinks of Gandy exit:

Platanthera lacera	Ragged Fringed Orchid
Ostrya virginiana	CR Ironwood
Taxus canadensis	T Canada Yew
Aralia nudicaulis	OR Wild Sarsaparilla
Lonicera canadensis	T Fly Honeysuckle
Cornus alterniflolia	Alternate Leaved Dogwood
Aquilegia canadensis	Wild Columbine
Sambucus nigra	Black Elderberry
Caulopyllum thalictro	bides Blue Cohosh
Cystopteris bulbifera	Bulbiferous Bladder Fern
Actaea pachypoda	Doll's Eyes
Arisaema triphyllum	var triphyllum
OR	Common Jack-In-The-Pulpit

1
Foamflower
Bishop's Cap
Purslane Speedwell
T Jacob's Ladder
T Ostrich Fern



Spiked Lobelia

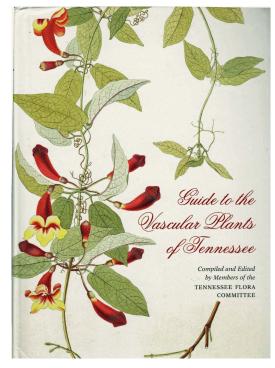
All Photographs are from the reported trips and were taken by Kevin Campbell. His efforts are greatly appreciated.  $\clubsuit$ 

## A Nearby Flora

Tennessee Flora Committee. 2014. *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee*, University of Tennessee Press. Knoxville. 813 pages list \$49.95 Amazon Prime \$41.02 ISBN 978-1-62190–100-6

It is with pleasure I noted that all the proceeds from the sale of this book benefit the Tennessee Native Plant Society. What a terrific decision.

One of the strengths of this book is the inclusion of material about conditions affecting the state's flora, including descriptions of the physical and biological regions of Tennessee and their relationship to the distribution of plants. The inclusion of a very short section on the influences that are now shaping the plant communities is an important addition. A history of botany in Tennessee includes both photographs and bibliographies of those who have contributed to the evolving knowledge of the Tennessee flora. A section of line drawings illustrates the meaning of terms used, supplementing a glossary. What is not present in the book are any colored illustrations. If this is an important criterium for your purchase of floras, this is not a book for you.



The arrangement of the families is alphabetical, not phylogenetic. However, the treatments seem to be up to the date of publication. A few I checked included: *Paulownia* is in the Paulowniaceae, not Bignonaceae; *Celtis*, the hackberries, are in the Cannabaceae, as are *Humulus* and *Cannabis*, not the Ulmaceae, this leaves the Moraceae with *Fatoua, Broussonetia, Maclura* and *Morus*, with a note that *Ficus carica* L. should be looked for as it may become invasive. Notes on families that might be searched for, and not found, such as Fumariaceae, direct you to the current listing, Papaveraceae.

The keys are short, but usually clear, larger family keys such as the Poaceae, are separated into groups for ease of identification. The basis of the genus descriptions are cited in almost all groups. Floral formulas are included. There are no long descriptions for individual species, the content for species is usually the habitat, region in the state, special status, season and wetland status; for some species horticultural uses are included and potential or actual invasive threat.

Appendices include: authorship of family treatments, synopsis and a listing of reported but unconfirmed taxa. Indices include families, scientific and common names.

## Resources

In response to those who requested information on weed control, particularly of invasives, the following download may provide some assistance;

https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2016-04\_Biocontrol\_Field\_Guide.pdf

There is a guide to plants supporting monarch Butterflies, *Important Plants of the Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus)* available for download at:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/?cid=nrcseprd402207

search for USDA monarch butterfly initiative. Try to get the Midwest edition (179 pages in pdf form) not the southern great plains one. There are very good color photographs of plants.

## News of the West Virginia Native Plant Society

## Highlights of the April 8 2017

## Board Meeting

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- The spring board meeting was held at the Ohio River National Wildlife Refuge in Williamstown WV. Seven Board members and two others attended.
- ! The minutes of the two preceding board meetings were approved.
- ! After a presentation of the treasurer's report by Judi White there was a motion to provide the presenter of the workshop with a \$100 honorarium. The board voted to do so.
- ! A report was received from the corresponding secretary, Helen Gibbins. Reminder dues notices will be sent out in the spring and summer.
- ! Steve Mace reported the Facebook Page has 2,378 members as of today.
- ! Emily Grafton suggested an incentive, such as giving away native seeds, to encourage attendance at field trips.
- ! Judy Dumke asked the board for opinions as to how to make the Native Notes printed version remain at eight pages. The board said it was her decision to adjust inclusions of field trip reports, fonts etc. The creation of a list of counties and dates of field trip reports was discussed and supported.
- ! Kevin Campbell reported that upcoming field trips are sheduled for:

May 12-14 in connection with the Webster County Nature Tour

June 23-25 Canaan Valley and Dolly Sods

- Rodney Dever is working with the VA. and MD NPSs for a Sept 29-Oct. 1 joint fall meeting to be held in the Eastern Panhandle.
- ! Kevin Campbell was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee.
- ! The meeting adjourned at 11:55 and reconvened at 3:55. At this meeting the Board agreed to endorse the botany bill in the US House of Representatives.

### Welcome to New Members

Craig Barrett Bert Lustig and Patricia Graybeal Carol Nix Lisa Stanley Morgan town, WV Berkeley Springs, WV In dependence, WV Ch arleston WV

## DUES ARE DUE

The corresponding secretary is planning to send out dues notices soon to those members who have yet to renew. If that includes you, there is a renewal form on the back of the newsletter, using it will save the WVNPS money for postage and printing and save the long serving secretary time and effort.

#### West Virginia Native Plant Society Officers

President- Emily Grafton egrafton@gmail.com

Vice President -Steve Mace sdmace@frontiernet.net (304)-674-5523

Past President -Romie Hughart romie 5006@yahoo.com (304)-523-1049

Corresponding Secretary-Helen Gibbins <u>Gibbins@frontier.com</u> (304)-736-3287

Recording Secretary-Dan Stevenson dstevenson101@gmail.com (304)- 633-0800

Treasurer - Judi White Judiwhite@suddenlink.net (304)-863-8352

#### Directors

Chris Gatens (1 year term) (304)-458-2533 cmgatens@frontier.com

Kevin Campbell (2 year term) kevin.campbell@wv.gov

Donna Ford-Werntz (3 year term) dford2@wvu.edu (304-293-0794

### **Chapter Officers**

Eastern Panhandle-Rodney Dever rodneydever@virginia.edu (304-676-7438)

Kanawha Valley -Steve Mace See above

Tri-State -Romie Hughart See above

Editor

Judith Dumke dumke@live.marshall.edu (740)-894-6859

Native Notes Spring-Summer 2017

## **Events of Interest**

#### West Virginia Native Plant Society

June 23-25 Canaan Valley/ Dolly Sods field trips See page 1 for details

September 29-October 1 Tri-State Native Plant Conference Shepherdstown, WV see page 2 for details

#### West Virginia Parks

June 3 National Trails Day, Check a park near you, all most all WV parks are going to be doing something; as an example Cathedral State Park is doing a celebration of Giant Hemlocks.

July 1 Blennerhassett SP 10:00 A.M. Nature Walk *Trees Have Roots* (304) 420 4800

July 21-22 Watoga State Park, *Mushroom Foray* (304) 799-4087 for further information

#### Some Travel Required

March 19-June 30 Hunt Botanical Library exhibition *Exquisite Patterns in Nature*. Opening 2-4PM March 19<sup>th</sup> Annual open house June 25 1:45-4:30 Pittsburgh PA http://www.huntbotanical.org/exhibitions/current/

June 7 Ryerson Station State Park Evening hike 6:30-8:00 P. M. Plant defenses *Your Babies Ate Me* Wind Ridge PA. http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/event/evening\_hike\_-\_your\_babies\_ate\_me ?utm\_campaign=widget&utm\_medium=widget&utm\_source=DCNR+C alendar+of+Events#.WSHC\_Ny1vIV

July 29 Adams County Ohio Prairie Tour 9:00 A.M. to 2:00P.M.ShawneeStatePark OH <u>http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/calendar</u> (Go to July, click on Adams on the 29<sup>th</sup>)

Multiple dates The Virginia. Native Plant Society has a listing for many events on their web site:

www.VNPS.org/events

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Name(s)	CATEGORIES	CATEGORIES	
Address	Life	\$20	
	Regular	1	
	Student		
Chapter affiliations (please cire	cle) Tri-State Chapter Kanawha Valley		
	Eastern Panhandle		
E-Mail			
I prefer to receive the Native N	otes by mail e-mail		
-	e statewide WVNPS in order to be a member of a local	chapter	
You must be a member of the	ck payable to West Virginia Native Plant Society;		
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You must be a member of the Please make the chec Include local chapter	ck payable to West Virginia Native Plant Society; dues, if pertinent. Dues are for one calendar year.		
You must be a member of the Please make the chec Include local chapter	ck payable to West Virginia Native Plant Society; dues, if pertinent. Dues are for one calendar year. Judi White		

## ey Ballard's promised receipt for violet jelly





# Adapted from the recipe in Euell Gibbons'

**VIOLET JELLY** 

"Stalking the Healthful Herbs"

This jelly has a delicious fruity flavor and a lovely rose-violet color. Use purple-flowered violets, *e.g.*, woolly blue violet (*Viola sororia Willd. [syn.: V. papilionacea auct.*]) or English violet (*V. odorata*), as these have the most flavor and produce the most vividly colored jelly.

The following makes almost six 8-oz jars of jelly (I like to buy a 12-pack of the 4 oz jelly jars, to mostly give away as gifts, and this recipe fills around 10 of those jars).

Keep extras in the freezer, good for a year or more. Very easy to make!

- 1. Fill a quart jar (gently packed) with violet flowers, without flower stalks.
- 2. Fill the jar with boiling water to the top and screw on the lid; let sit 24 hours.
- 3. Get 6 8-oz jelly jars, with inserts and lids, and sterilize them in a kettle in boiling water for 10 minutes; lay out on a towel to drain for a few minutes, then dry the outsides of the jars and lid components.
- 4. Strain the infusion from the flowers using a sieve or cheesecloth, into a large pan.
- 5. Measure out 4 cups of sugar and have ready.
- 6. Add 4 tablespoons of lemon juice and stir thoroughly, then add 1 package of powdered pectin, and bring to a full rolling boil to dissolve the pectin, stirring constantly.
- Add sugar to infusion/pectin mixture, mix thoroughly, and bring to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly to dissolve sugar and prevent jelly from scorching. Boil HARD for 2-3 minutes while stirring constantly, then remove from heat.
- 8. Skim off the foam into a "aste" bowl with a spoon, then ladle the jelly into the jars, leaving at least 1/8" space at the top of the jar.
- 9. Screw on the lids tightly (using a towel to hold the hot jars) and let the jelly jars sit out on the counter until fully cooled.
- 10. Store opened jars in the refrigerator and unopened ones in the freezer. The frozen jelly is good for a year or more.

#### The Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion

#### Act (H.R. 1054)

Title I – Promoting Botanical Research and Botanical Sciences Capacity.

There is a need for more research on botanical issues, for more botanists in the federal service, and for more incentives for young people to enter careers in botanical sciences. The purpose of this Title is to provide support for botanical research and to promote the hiring and placement of botanists in federal agencies.

Section 1-- Research would amend the law governing the Department of Interior to authorize a program of botanical sciences research, which could include research conducted by Department personnel or extramural research funded through competitive grants and contracts. Funding for the research program would be authorized.

Section 2 – Staff enhancement would amend the law governing the Department of Interior to authorize two activities to promote the education and placement of botanists. First, it would authorize the Department to hire new, additional personnel. Second, it would create a student loan repayment program for "botanical science personnel" defined as individuals with postsecondary education in the field of botanical sciences. (This provision is based on a similar law known as the National Health Service Corps that provides loan repayment for health professionals who agree to serve in medically under-served areas.)

Title II – Generating Demand for Native Plant Materials.

The continued growth and development of private-sector suppliers of locally-adapted native plant materials can be promoted by stimulating demand for such materials. This Title advances several policies to promote such demand.

Sections 1 and 2 – Preference Policy. These sections amend the laws governing the Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Defense to declare a federal policy that provides a preference for the use of locally adapted native plant materials by such agencies in their land management activities. Each agency is directed to implement this policy through appropriate directives and to define situations where the use of non-native species may be warranted. Language regarding when non-natives may be used is derived from existing USDA policy and a definition of native plants is provided.

Section 3 – Surface Transportation. The federal government, through the Surface Transportation Act, provides funding to the states to undertake a variety of activities related to highway and bridge construction and repair, bike paths and other surface transportation. This includes environmental mitigation and restoration activities. State programs must be reviewed and approved by the federal government. This section would require the states to use native plant materials to the extent practicable in their restoration programs.

Section 4 – Federal Buildings. Various provisions of federal law promote energy efficient (green) buildings, especially with respect to federal buildings. This section would require federal agencies that are developing or redeveloping buildings exceeding 5,000 square feet to maximize the use of native plant materials in such projects. (The provision is modeled on an analogous requirement pertaining to water).

Title III – Authorizing Federal Activities.

Many federal agencies undertake a variety of activities that are allowed by laws that give them general authority in an area of responsibility (for example, "land management"). The importance of a particular activity can be emphasized by creating specific authority for it. This Title authorizes two such activities.

Section 1 – Interagency Efforts. This section authorizes funding to support the collaborative work of the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Botanic Garden, and the Federal Highway Administration on activities related to Seed, Pollinators and Land Management. The identified authorities are taken from the National Seed Strategy, the Plant Conservation Alliance MOU and the Pollinator Executive Order.

Section 2 – Plant Conservation Program. This section authorizes the Bureau of Land Management's plant conservation activities, which includes the native plant materials development program.

Section 3 -- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Language is included to instruct NFWF to ensure that a robust program of activities specifically supporting plant conservation activities is incorporated into its existing programs and activities, and to report to Congress on implementation of these activities.

Section 4 -- Cooperative Grants. The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 is amended to establish the authority for a new grant program that would support collaborative grants (between federal/state/local governments and non-profits) to prevent rare plant species from falling into endangered status or to remediate endangered populations. The program is authorized at a level equivalent to the funding for state wildlife action plans.