

NATIVE



Kate's Mountain Clover*

NOTES

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WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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*Annual meeting of the WVNPS
September 18th and 19th
Elkins West Virginia*

Agenda

Saturday September 18th

10 AM start field trip to Big Run Bog (see page 2)

1:15 PM start field trip to Queens Wetland Restoration (see page 2)

5 PM annual meeting US Forest Service office Elkins

Post meeting Cookout

Sunday September 19th

9:30 AM field trip to Shaver's Fork (see page 2)

This year's annual meeting will be held at the Forest Service Office Saturday evening, September 18th, at 5:00 p.m. A cookout will follow the meeting for details contact Cynthia Sandeno (cmsandeno@fs.fed.us)

Driving directions from the intersection of I-79 and US 33 E

US 33E towards Buckhannon/Elkins (35 miles)

Turn right onto U:S219/US250/US33 (1.8 miles)

Turn left onto Randolph Avenue/US 219/US250?US33 (.2 miles)

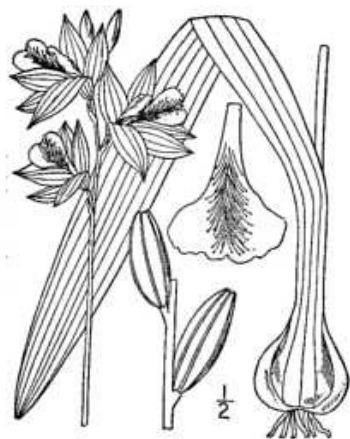
Turn left onto Sycamore Street (turn is at the iron horse statue)

Drive past Elkins City Park and Forest Service Office will be on your right (200 Sycamore Street)

There are several places to stay in Elkins: the Holiday Inn at 50 Martin Street (304-630-2266), Hampton Inn at 673 Glenmore Loop Road (304-630-7500), or Day's Inn at 1200 Harrison Avenue (304-637-4667). Camping is also available just 6 miles NE of Elkins at the junction of WV Route 6 and Forest Road 91. Each campsite has a parking spur, table, fire ring, tent pad, lantern holder, and electric hookup. All campsites are suitable for both tent and trailer camping and can accommodate a 53-foot tow/vehicle combination. A shower facility is also available.

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

Annual Meeting Field Trips



Grass Pink
Calopogon tuberosus

learn more about the project and see all of the aquatic vegetation that has become established on its own during this fascinating hike led by Ecologists Kent Karriker and Cindy Sandeno. To meet up for this hike, either join us in the morning, or meet at the Subway in Parsons at 1:15.

Images USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / 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.

The final hike will occur Sunday morning and will include stops along Shaver's Fork River with chances to see rare plant communities and species such as Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*) and long-stalked holly (*Ilex collin*). These brief stops will be followed by a trip to Gaudineer Scenic Area which includes 50 acres of virgin red spruce. This Scenic Area was registered by the Society of American Foresters as an outstanding example of a vegetative community in a near natural condition dedicated for scientific and educational purposes. The hike will be lead by a great botanist, Ron Polgar, from the Monongahela National Forest. To join this hike, meet up at the Forest Service Office at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 19th.



Barbara's
Buttons
*Marshallia
grandiflora*

The WV NPS recording secretary, Cindy Sandeno, not only has been responsible for planning this annual meeting, but also has been named the new National Cave and Karst Coordinator for the Forest Service. She will continue to be located on the Monongahela National Forest. Cindy will concentrate on working closely with minerals and geology, wildlife, ecology, and other resource areas. As an active caver she has had extensive cave and karst expertise, on both the Hoosier and Monongahela National Forest, resulting in instigating partnerships with local cave grottos and the National Speleological Society. ♣

Events of interest

September 11 Kentucky Native Plant Society annual meeting at Shakertown, Ky <http://www.kynps.org>

September 15 Iron Furnace Cooperative Weed Management Area demonstration day, Crown City Ohio details annemarie.smith@dnr.state.ohio. Us

September 16-17 Growing Communities, Karst and Greater Valley Resources Science Forum, USFW National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown WV phrcd.6003@verizon.net

September 23-25 16th annual meeting American Society of Botanical Artists, Pittsburgh Pa. (See Hunt Botanical Library under Exhibition below)

September 24-25 Food for Thought: 21st Century Perspectives on Ethnobotany, Smithsonian Institution and U. S. Botanical Garden <http://botany.si.edu/sbs>

September 25-26 Maryland Native Plant Society, Wye Mills Md <http://www.mdflora.org>

October 5-8 7th Annual Eastern Native Grass Symposium, Knoxville TN <http://nativegrasses.UTK.edu>

October 8-10 Mid South Native Plant Conference, Natives and Beyond Memphis TN <http://www.dixon.org>

Oct 15-16 57th Annual Systematics Symposium Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Mo <Http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/symposium> ❖

Exhibition

13th International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration Hunt Institute, Hunt Library 5th floor, 4909 Frew Street Carnegie Mellon University
24 September to 17 December 2010
<http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Exhibitions/Exhibitions.shtml>

As a visitor to past exhibitions the editor can strongly recommend visiting this triennial show of the best botanical art currently being produced. Sunday afternoon is a good time to visit as there are more places to park and students are fewer. This year there will be 110 works from 72 artists in 15 countries. They will probably not be native to WV and may be cultivars but the work is the best of the best. While there you might want to inquire about the services the Institute offers and give them a photograph of yourself. ❖

West Virginia Native Plant Society

Photo Hints

The on line journal *Vulpia* had a very good article on photographing plants for identification purposes. It is open source and can be downloaded at:

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/Plantbiology/ncsc/Vulpia/pdf/Baskauf & Kirschoff Digital Plant Images.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/Plantbiology/ncsc/Vulpia/pdf/Baskauf%20&%20Kirschoff%20Digital%20Plant%20Images.pdf) ❖

Mistletoe Specimens Needed

Donna Ford-Werntz has noted that no specimens of mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*) have been collected and sent to West Virginia herbaria in more than 20 years. She solicits your assistance in obtaining documentation to establish that this species is still found in West Virginia. It does not mean that shotguns are in order, the traditional collecting technique, it may be possible to recover specimens when tree trimming is being done. Just ask, probably few would object to your having a specimen to press and send to a herbarium, noting the host tree. It has been reported from 13 counties primarily in southern and western West Virginia. ❖

Update The Word is Getting Out About West Virginia's First CWPMA

The Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWPMA) is becoming a very active organization. The final Memorandum of Understanding was finalized on August 20th and sent out to all 13 partners, including the W.V. Native Plant Society. The CWPMA, is a partnership of community associations, non-profit organizations, private land owners and federal, state, and local agencies.

Other recent CWPMA work of note includes: 1) the appointment of a full-time coordinator position, to be located at the Elkins office of The Nature Conservancy; 2) the deployment of a TNC and USFS 2 person team which began treating non native invasives in the area, 3) work by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to treat Japanese knotweed on private lands within the CWPMA. Overall, the Potomac Highlands CWPMA is off to a strong start and is an excellent example of how many agencies are joining forces with many others to make a difference. ❖

Farewell to Chad and Kari Kirschbaum

The Kirschbaum family has transferred from the US Forest Service Office in the Wayne National Forest to Superior National Forest, Ely Ranger District in Minnesota, near the Boundary Waters. Chad is a botanist but will be working as a silvaculturist on the Superior. During his time on the Wayne he participated in training to be silvaculturist and in a very rare occurrence passed his written and practical exam on the first try. Kari will work on NEPA documentation.

Chad was the president of the WVNPS for the years 2007 and 2008 and brought a lot of energy to the organization. He organized several winter workshops at the University of Charleston so that we are now better equipped to identify trees in the winter, lichens, and grasses. He started our T-shirt program both for an added income and for PR for WVNPS.

He was an active member of the Tri-State chapter. During several winters he organized a well-received lecture series at Marshall University. One of the programs was on invasive species. We all participated in the program by eating delicious dishes made from invasive plants. Have you eaten garlic mustard lasagna and/or wineberry cobbler? He also organized hikes, floral inventory projects in Ohio and Kentucky and volunteer opportunities establishing native plant display areas with local seeds on the Wayne National Forest.

At their going away party at the Forest Service office, accolades came from a canoeing organization, fishing organizations, and the Wild Turkey Federation as well as their co-workers. Chad was also instrumental in the formation of the first Cooperative Weed Management Area in Ohio. He also taught at Ohio University Southern and was instrumental in obtaining grants for students to work on the Wayne as part of their education. As employees of the Forest Service Chad and Kari respected and assisted all those with whom they came in contact.

Chad and Kari came to us as a young married couple, and left with two sons, Miles and Nelson. Nelson was born this year on Miles birthday, July 4. We know the boys will grow up experiencing the outdoors under the guidance of enthusiastic and well-informed parents. And best of all they will grow up with parents who know how to have fun!❖

Dan Evans

Dan Evans, Professor of Biology, Marshall University has been named the Drinko Academy Fellow for 2010-2011. As the 18th fellow he will receive a stipend, financial support for research, a student assistant and reduced teaching load. He plans to use the time and the student assistant to produce images of the specimens in the herbarium and to place the images on line for the use of other botanists.

He will continue his work on the ethnobotany of Ecuador and Nepal and will use this work to present a seminar at Marshall's annual Celebration of Academics.

Dr. Evans has been at Marshall since 1974, conducting botanical research during the entire time. His most recent (29 July 2010) publication is *Plant Communities of Selected Embayments along the Mid to Mid-Upper Ohio River Flood plain*, written in connection with Joseph Ely and appearing in *Sida* 4(1): 411-433. For those of the members living in the Ohio River Valley it is well worth consulting. ❖

Lawrence Beckerle

Lawrence is the recipient of a grant from the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NE SARE) to explore modifications in the production of shiitake and oyster mushrooms. This endeavor is designed to lower the costs and improve the yield of small farms in a speciality business. As we know Lawrence has been an ardent supporter of the cultivation and use of native plants in West Virginia and beyond. This grant, obtained with the help of the Medical Botanicals Program of Mountain State University will enable him to determine if his techniques will work and if so to spread the word to other small producers. See

The Herbal Dispatch June 2010 Vol. 8 issue 6.❖

Matt Fox

Matt is our web master and greatly appreciated, if any one doubts the usefulness of <http://www.wvnps.org> Check the following: Kathrin and Hans Wipf of Switzerland found the WVNPS web site and were able to connect with Liz McDowell, Ron Boyer, Doug Jolley and Donna Ford-Werntz for information and/or championship in hunting orchids. They greatly appreciated the opening to West Virginia the web site provided.❖

Pycnanthemum species

The perplexing Mountain Mints

West Virginia's Atlas of the Vascular Flora lists twelve taxa of mountain mint, 10 species and 2 varieties. Some of these are quite familiar, others are far less common or recognized. Some are on federal or state lists of uncommon plants and many are subject to determination difficulties. It has been difficult to find adequate materials to illustrate these species; thus there are no illustrations provided here.

Those species with ten or more current occurrences include: *Pycnanthemum incanum* var. *incanum* (Hoary Mountain Mint (M-M))

P. tenuifolium (Narrowleaf M-M)

P. verticillatum var. *verticillatum* (verticillate M-M)

These three are the most common and widely distributed. Which means that nine taxa are currently known from fewer than ten counties.

P. virginianum (Virginia M-M) is the most common of the remaining species. It is found primarily in the eastern panhandle and other northeastern counties. One of the narrow-leaved species, suspect it if the leaves are glabrous and the stems hairy on the angles.

P. pycnanthemoides var. *pycnanthemoides* (Southern M-M) is concentrated in the southeastern and southwestern corners of the state. It is one of the broader leaved species with a very tight head of pink to purplish flowers.

P. pycnanthemoides var. *viridifolium* has been reported as currently found in Fayette County. As would be suspected from the name, it is primarily distinguished from the typical variety by the greener leaf underside and longer hairs (up to 1 mm) on the leaf midrib. Over all it is more hirsute than the typical variety.

P. loomisii (Loomis' M-M) has been reported in the southeastern part of the state as well as a few northern counties. It is similar to *P. pycnanthemoides* but the nutlets are different, the tips are only modestly hairy vs. densely hair. (Do you begin to have an idea as to why some of these species may be missed in the field?) In some treatments it is considered to be a variety of *P. incanum*.

P. muticum (blunt M-M) includes 5 known current occurrences and 2 historic sites scattered throughout the state. One of the dense headed species that have glabrous lanceolate to ovate leaves, often found in damper sites.

P. clinopodioides (Basil M-M) The Atlas lists 2 existent populations and 4 historical occurrences.

Nature Serve Explorer says "Approximately 13-14 occurrences are believed extant, though three of these are believed to have poor viability. States with extant occurrences include Virginia, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts (1 with poor viability only). The species is also believed extant in North Carolina with an unknown (but small) number of occurrences. An additional 29 occurrences are considered historical and 5 extirpated or possibly extirpated: these include all known occurrences in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.....approximately 13-14 occurrences are believed extant and the total population may be little more than 500 plants. Loss of habitat due to development and quarrying or by natural succession of woody vegetation is the primary threat to *P. clinopodioides*. Invasive non-native plants and, potentially hybridization with other *Pycnanthemum* species are also threats at some sites. "

There is thus some question as to the current presence of this species in West Virginia, suggesting that more collection and more attention is clearly needed.

P. torrei (Torrey's M-M) has 2 reported occurrences in the state, widely scattered in Jefferson and Fayette Counties. This is another species that is considered to be quite rare throughout its range. Approximately 20 confirmed occurrences are known and in those locations the populations are declining. The calyx lobes are key in separating this species from *P. clinopodioides*.

P. montanum (Thin-leaved M-M) is considered extirpated in West Virginia. Collections are known from Nicholas and Raleigh Counties. This dense headed mint has very long cilia on the bracts and resembles *P. muticum*.

P. Verticillatum var. *pilosum* (Hairy M-M) is also on the missing list with historic collections from Fayette and Roane Counties. As the name suggests, this is like unto *P. verticillatum* but far hairier.

Are you confused yet? You are not alone.

This group has many problems, including hybridization and very small characters that separate species. Agreement on the species is still sometimes in doubt. Please, if the population is large enough, collect specimens and send them to a herbarium, if they are not identified don't worry *Pycnanthemum* spp. will be just fine; what is need is the specimen and the label information, location, date, habitat and population size. To resolve the status of the members of this genus in West Virginia more information and specimens are needed. ❖

Tri State Chapter Upcoming Field Trip

October 2nd the Tri State Chapter will be going to Blue Licks State Park near Mt. Olivet, Kentucky to look for two special plants. Neither are found in West Virginia, however learning what they look like may lead to discoveries in Western West Virginia.

The first is Short's Goldenrod, *Solidago shortii* Torrey and Gray. FNA contains the following information on the species "*Solidago shortii* is found in Fleming, Nicolas and Robertson Counties, Ky. and Harrison County, Indiana. It was found historically on rock islands in the fall of the Ohio River near Louisville. *Solidago shortii* is listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is in the Center for Plant Conservation's National Collection of Endangered Plants."

Solidago shortii



The second is the Great Plains Ladies Tresses, *Spiranthes magnicamporum* Sheviak, first described in 1973. It is distinguished by the lateral sepals, spreading widely while usually strongly ascending above the flower, if we find it, there will be flowering stalks but the leaves will have died back. This species has been found, although in very limited numbers in adjacent states, so it is not improbable that it will be found in West Virginia.

Betsy Tramell has generously provided illustrations of key characters for both species, thank you Betsy. For further information consult <http://www.plants.usda.gov> For the goldenrod the symbol is SOSH and for the orchid it is SPMA5.

The group will meet at the lodge at Blue Licks State Park at 9AM. To verify that the trip is as scheduled contact Jeff Patton, jzebulon@hotmail.com. ❖

Great Plains in Prairie Licks - Sheviak
Spiranthes magnicamporum



Spiranthes magnicamporum



Yellow Fringed Orchid

Hi: Hooray, we saw the yellow fringed orchids today. We were not sure if they would be in bloom quite yet. Julian, my sister Shirley and husband Cliff, and I were at the Forest about 8:30 a.m. to start the trek up Middleridge Road to see the orchids. They were beautiful. Beginning at about 1100 feet or maybe half way plus up the road were the first orchids and many more thereafter as we ascended the hill. Some were in full bloom and others perhaps at half bloom. As I remember it, this was the shortest distance up the road for viewing the orchids in four years or more. However, nearer the top of the hill, there were but a few where they had been located in the past. In all we counted 136 more or less in bloom - with perhaps a half dozen at most from near Teaberry Rock Trail toward Lindy Trail. We neither looked much for nor counted orchids not in bloom. It was special to see so many near prime - at top of the hill there was a tall beautiful one in perfect bloom.

This wet weather brought forth the filmy and climbing ferns in glorious abundance.

From Mae Ellen Wilson on July 21, 2010 ❖

Vinton Furnace Field Trip

On the 19th of June 2010 members of the Tri State Chapter visited the Vinton Experimental Forest in Ohio to see the work that the U. S. Forest Service Northern Research Station has been undertaking for many years. Dr. Todd Hutchinson came down from Delaware Ohio to explain the results of various controlled fires on regenerating hardwood forests. Burning started in 1995 and has continued at selected intervals since with very careful monitoring of the results. One change has been the investigation of the results of late season burns, the results were better than expected. The group did see very vigorous patches of fringe trees, *Chionanthus virginica*. ❖

East Lynn Lake field trip

On the 10th of April the Tri State Chapter of the WVNPS visited East Lynn Lake State Park and through the courtesy of the Corps of Engineers had a boat ride to see the filmy fern *Trichomanes boschianum* site, the population continues to thrive. Orchid lovers found Lily Leaved twayblade, *Liparis liliifolia*; showy orchis, *Galearis spectabilis*; and a developing *Spiranthes* sp. *Synandra hispidula* was emerging, a typical spring flora was present, some freeze damage was noted. ❖

NEWS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Highlights of the April Board Meeting

On May 7 the second board meeting of the year was held at Blackwater Lodge near Davis, West Virginia.

- ★ Membership report 17 life, 32 of 122 total members are current.
- ★ Mae Ellen Wilson and Helen Gibbins staffed earth day at the Clay Center in Charleston
- ★ Kanawha Valley Chapter dissolved and funds transferred to WVNPS account
- ★ File of old Native Notes to be compiled by Dick Thompson, request for missing copies to be made later
- ★ Annual meeting to be in Elkins, WV Sept. 18th and 19th, Cynthia Sandeno to organize.
- ★ Standard answers to common questions to be compiled and used by Helen Gibbins to answer requests
- ★ Appreciation to Judy Dumke for Native Notes work

Welcome to a New Member

Bethany Belding, Charleston WV

West Virginia Native Plant Society Officers

President - Lawrence Beckerle
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2010 DUES

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

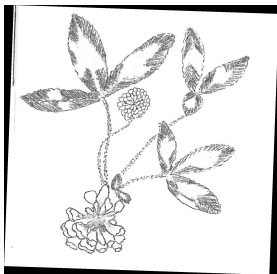
You must be a member of the statewide WV-NPS in order to be a member of a local chapter.
Make your check payable to “West Virginia Native Plant Society”. Just write one check and state if you are joining the tri state chapter. The Treasurer will distribute Chapter dues.

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



TRIFOLIUM VIRGINICUM
Kate's Mountain Clover