

# The WVNPS Annual Meeting Hikes!

This year's annual meeting included three outstanding hikes that were attended by 16 people and one very small dog. The first hike was led by Ecologist, Kent Karriker, and included a hike around Big Run Bog, an undeveloped research natural area (see [map](#)). The bog covers an estimated 44 acres with an irregular mosaic of several plant communities growing on hummocks and in the valleys between. Some of the most interesting species seen included Golden club (*Arisaema triphyllum*), three way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*), grass pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), and more tawny cottongrass (*Eriophorum virginicum*) than you could shake a stick at! [Complete checklist \(pdf\)\\*](#)

The second hike covered an 8 acre wetland restoration project that occurs on a high terrace along Shaver's Fork River. This project was completed over the summer and attendees helped to develop an initial inventory of the species found in the project area. The group identified over 100 species including bigblue stem (*Andropogon gerardii*), groundnut (*Apios americana*), slender spikerush (*Eleocharis elliptica*), glade St. John's wort (*Hypericum densiflorum*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), and one very delicious prairie crab apple (*Malus ioensis* var. *ioensis*). [Complete checklist \(pdf\)\\*](#)

The final hike was led by Botanist, Ron Polgar, and included stops along Shaver's Fork River. The group was able to see rare, river scour plant communities and species such as Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*) and long-stalked holly (*Ilex collina*). Even the parking spots were spectacular and featured fields of nodding ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*). A special thanks to everyone who attended the hikes and to our great trip leaders!

\*The file requires the free Adobe Acrobat Reader available [here](#).



Photo 1 -Kent Karriker and Judi White begin botanizing before even leaving for the hikes.



Photo 2 - Group arrives at Big Run Bog.





Photo 3 - Tawny cottongrass and introduced pitcher plants abound in the Big Run Bog.





Photo 4 - Jim Vanderhorst helps key out a tricky plant.



Photo 5 - Ron Polgar and Kevin Campbell discuss the identification of a plant.





Photo 6 - Barbara's button was seen at one stop along the Shaver's Fork River.



Photo 7 - Romney's new puppy keeps the group entertained.





Photo 8 - Parking occurred next to a field of flowering nodding ladies' tresses.





Photo 9 - Close up of nodding ladies' tresses.

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