

# NATIVE NOTES

The Newsletter of the West Virginia Native Plant Society

## New members in 2023

We'd like to extend a huge welcome to the newest members of the West Virginia Native Plant Society!

The interest in native plants keeps growing and growing! And of course, thank you to all our other dedicated members that continue to support the WVNPS.

- Pamela Cubberly
- Kate Diddon
- Ruth Eisenhour
- Mike Jones: Lifetime member
- Michelle LaFrance
- Cynthia Lyons
- Jani Niner
- Larry Thomas
- Nancy Adamson: Lifetime member
- Lisa deGruyter
- Robert Helfer
- Randy Kesling

## In Memory of Pete Rykert

Pete Rykert, past president of the West Virginia Native Plant Society, passed away on December 23, 2022. Originally from Attica, New York, he spent his retirement years in Montrose, West Virginia.

He was president of the WVNPS from 2019 to 2021. Pete's interests included the beauty of the state's native plants, photography and birding.

He was a regular attendee to the WVNPS outings, in his multi colored truck with his faithful canine companion Pokey. He will be missed by all. ❁



Large Purple Fringed Orchid (*Plantanthera grandiflora*)

## April Established as Native Plant Month in West Virginia

The West Virginia Native Plant Society and the Kanawha Garden Club are pleased to announce the signing of a proclamation by Governor Jim Justice on Feb. 20, 2023, officially designating April as West Virginia Native Plant Month.

Native plants are special because they have evolved over thousands of years alongside native bees, birds and wildlife. The intricate relationships that have developed between local flora and fauna are extremely specialized and cannot be replaced with ornamental, non-native plants.

Our landscapes today often contain plants collected from around the world, but many of our insects and caterpillars have not evolved quickly enough to be able to eat these strange, exotic foods.

Therefore, native plants are unique because they provide food for native wildlife. Incorporating so many non-native plants into our landscapes has caused a sharp decline in pollinators and wildlife species, because of destruction of habitat and the lack of food.

To help reverse this trend, many more native plants need to be planted across the country, including a wide variety of native plants with flowers that have different blooming times, flower colors, and flower shapes.

This is a coordinated effort across all 50 states to increase awareness of

*continued on page 3*



# How to Grow Pipevine Successfully (and how not to do it!)

Story and photos by Kathy Gregg



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

Back in 2011, when we purchased some 180 native vines, shrubs, and trees from Enchanter's Garden –now Wood Thrush Natives in Virginia—for Buckhannon's Nature Park and Learning Trail, there were two young pipevines (*Aristolochia macrophylla*) in the mix. Without doing any research, we planted them, one at the base of a large cherry tree and the other at the base of a huge silver maple.

Several years later, the vines had grown but not up the nearby trees, just mainly along the ground.

Luckily, I ran into one of the owners of Enchanter's Garden at a gardening convention and learned to my horror, that young pipevines need to climb a young tree and grow up with it. Oops. So, we stuck in a metal stake and tried to train it up, and sure enough, up it went (Fig. 1), but then it stopped when it reached the tree trunk.

Pipevines are apparently not adapted to latching onto the bark of big trees, even the shaggy bark of the silver maple (Fig. 2). Then we tried hanging long chains down the trunk of the large trees (Fig. 3) and tried to train the vines up these. Unfortunately, someone ripped off one of the chains within a few months, so we took the second one down to avoid temptation.

Several years passed, and the vines grew, thickening and branching. Then they started to grow up some wingstems (*Verbesina alternifolia*), which would not work in the long run.

A couple of years ago, I noticed young maple trees were growing beside the cherry tree. I gently unwound the pipevines from the wingstems and curled them around two of the maple trees. Success! Vines happily climbing. But then, last year, the resident beavers chomped down both maple trees and other young ones nearby! They also ate our four large hazelnuts down to the ground except for a few twigs (Fig. 4).

Fortunately, the hazelnuts are resprouting and will return to mature, fruiting size in a few years. But now, what to do about the pipevines?

This year I decided upon a new approach: plant some young trees next to the vines and see if we could train them up. Over the last few months, my husband and I have transplanted three young trees that were four to five feet tall. We planted a box elder for the pipevine at the former huge silver maple. I recently trained some of the vines up it (Fig. 5).

Former silver maple? Yes, the silver maple fell over in a storm in 2021 and landed right on top of the hazelnuts, but the large branches kept it from crushing them. Only recall they were decimated in 2022 by beavers!



FIGURE 4

*continued on page 3*

## How to Grow Pipevine *continued from previous page*

Back to the pipevine story.

This spring, we planted a young red maple and a box elder a few weeks later next to the large cherry tree. One pipevine branch is already climbing up the red maple. I'm waiting for the second branch to grow long enough to reach the young box elder.

Interestingly, we do have pipevines in the park that have been there all along. They have been flowering and fruiting; occasionally, I find a baby plant sprouting! The flowers are pretty unusual, looking like a meerschaum pipe, even in bud (Fig. 6). Fruits are large capsules (Fig. 7), as shown in the herbarium specimen I collected from a large vine a few years ago.

And wouldn't you know it? Last year the beavers took down a big host plant and cut off the large pipevines (arrow) to boot (Fig. 8)!

Stay tuned. ❁



FIGURE 5



FIGURE 7

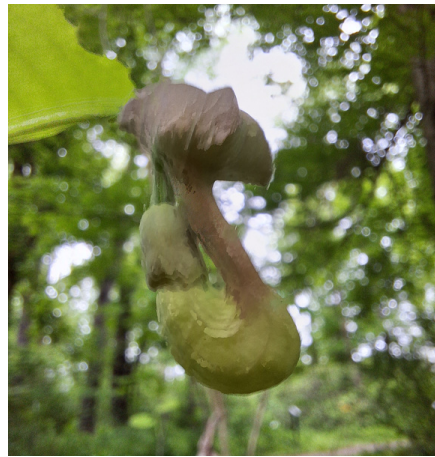


FIGURE 6



FIGURE 8

## WV Native Plant Month *continued from page 1*

the critical role native plants play in supporting a healthy environment and ensuring thriving wildlife and pollinator populations. We are extremely grateful to Governor Justice for taking the lead and recognizing how important native plants are to keeping West Virginia "Wild and Wonderful."

The National Native Plant Month initiative was started in 2021. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Senator Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) are the founding co-sponsors of a bipartisan Senate Resolution to designate April 2021 and April 2022 as National Native Plant Month.

With the retirement of Senator Portman, Senator Mike Braun (R-Indiana) and Senator Mazie Hirono have agreed to co-sponsor the renewal of the Senate Resolution to make April 2023 National Native Plant Month.

The West Virginia Native Plant Society has been working to protect and preserve West Virginia's native plants for over 40 years. The Kanawha Garden Club (a member of the Garden Club of America) has been educating its members and the public in the fields of horticulture, gardening, beautification, conservation, and the environment since 1921.

During the month of April, people and organizations across the state can celebrate native plants by planting native trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses, planning educational events with schools and community organizations, hosting hands-on workshops, removing non-native invasive plants so native plants can thrive, and restoring areas with native habitats to allow birds, bees, butterflies and all wildlife to flourish. ❁

# Spring 2023 Meeting: Doddridge County

The WVNPS held their Spring meeting and flora walk on April 29 at the Doddridge County Park in West Union.

Following a great board meeting and lunch, the group set off along the Meathouse Fork Creek to observe native (and non-native) plants and spring ephemerals. Many thanks to our walk leaders for their vast plant knowledge and sharp observations!

Over 100 different plants were recorded by the participants. Two species of native ramps—*Allium tricoccum* var. *burdickii* (white ramp) and *Allium tricoccum* var. *tricoccum* (red ramp)—were growing in profusion along the trail. Over 30 spring flowers were found, including Greek Valerian, Early Saxifrage, Virginia Bluebells, two types of trilliums and four types of violets. At least nine ferns were found, including Adder's Tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) and eleven types of trees, including Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*).

Unfortunately, the typical non-native invasive plants were also observed.

Please see the list below for a complete record of the species that were found along the trail. ❁

- **Boxelder** (*Acer negundo* var. *negundo*)
- **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*)
- **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum* var. *saccharum*)
- **Black Snakeroot, Black Cohosh, Rattletop** (*Actaea racemosa* var. *racemosa*)
- **Yellow Buckeye, Sweet Buckeye** (*Aesculus flava*)
- **Tree of Heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- **Garlic Mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- **Meadow Garlic** (*Allium canadense*)
- **White Ramp, Wild Leek** (*Allium tricoccum* var. *burdickii*)
- **Red Ramp, Wild Leek** (*Allium tricoccum* var. *tricoccum*)
- **Wild Garlic, Crow Garlic** (*Allium vineale* ssp. *vineale*)
- **Sweet Vernal Grass** (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)
- **Smooth Rockcress** (*Arabis laevigata*)
- **Jack-in-the-Pulpit** (*Arisaema triphyllum* ssp. *triphyllum*)
- **Wild Ginger** (*Asarum canadense*)
- **PawPaw** (*Asimina triloba*)
- **Walking Fern** (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*)
- **Japanese Barberry** (*Berberis thunbergii*)
- **Cutleaf Toothwort** (*Cardamine concatenata*)
- **Two-leaved Toothwort** (*Cardamine diphylla*)
- **Narrow-leaf Sedge** (*Carex amphibola*)
- **James' Sedge** (*Carex jamesii*)
- **Eastern Star Sedge** (*Carex radiata*)
- **Twisted Sedge** (*Carex torta*)
- **Muscletree** (*Carpinus caroliniana* ssp. *virginiana*)
- **Shagbark Hickory** (*Carya ovata*)
- **Giant Blue Cohosh** (*Caulophyllum giganteum*)
- **Oriental Bittersweet** (*Celastrus orbiculata*)
- **Spreading Chervil** (*Chaerophyllum procumbens* var. *procumbens*)
- **Intermediate Enchanter's-Nightshade** (*Circaea lutetiana* ssp. *canadensis*)
- **Virginia Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia virginica*)
- **Alternate-Leaved Dogwood** (*Cornus alternifolia*)
- **Honewort** (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*)
- **Brittle Fern** (*Cystopteris* sp.)
- **Dwarf Larkspur** (*Delphinium tricorne*)
- **Silvery Athyrium** (*Deparia acrostichoides*)
- **Squirrel Corn** (*Dicentra canadensis*)
- **Dutchman's Breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
- **Glade Fern** (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*)
- **Goldie's Shield Fern** (*Dryopteris goldiana*)
- **Indian Strawberry** (*Duchesnea indica*)
- **Yellow Trout Lily** (*Erythronium americanum*)
- **White Wood Aster** (*Eurybia divaricata*)
- **False Mermaid Weed** (*Floerkea proserpinacoides*)
- **Wild Geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*)
- **Spring Avens** (*Geum vernum*)
- **Ground-Ivy** (*Glechoma hederacea*)
- **Witch Hazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- **Alumroot** (*Heuchera americana* var. *americana*)
- **Bluets** (*Houstonia caerulea*)
- **Green Violet** (*Hybanthus concolor*)
- **Broad-leaved Waterleaf** (*Hydrophyllum canadense*)
- **Large-leaved Waterleaf** (*Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*)
- **St. Johns Wort** (*Hypericum* sp.)
- **Purple Deadnettle** (*Lamium purpureum*)
- **Spicebush** (*Lindera benzoin*)
- **Woodrush** (*Luzula echinata*)
- **Common Woodrush** (*Luzula multiflora*)
- **Bugleweed** (*Lycopus virginicus*)
- **Money Wort** (*Lysimachia nummularia*)
- **False Solomon's Seal** (*Maianthemum racemosum* ssp. *racemosum*)
- **Virginia Bluebells** (*Mertensia virginica*)
- **Miterwort** (*Mitella diphylla*)
- **Forget-Me-Not** (*Myosotis macrosperma*)
- **Allder's Tongue** (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*)
- **Star of Bethlehem** (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)
- **Smooth Sweet Cicely** (*Osmorhiza longistylis*)
- **Violet Wood Sorrel** (*Oxalis violacea*)
- **Golden Ragwort** (*Packera aurea*)
- **Squaw-Weed** (*Packera obovata*)
- **Broad Beech Fern** (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*)
- **Wild Blue Phlox** (*Phlox divaricata*)
- **Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- **Short-leaved Bluegrass** (*Poa cuspidata*)
- **May Apple** (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
- **Greek Valerian** (*Polemonium reptans* var. *reptans*)
- **Virginia Knotweed** (*Polygonum virginianum*)
- **Common Polypody Fern** (*Polypodium virginianum*)
- **Christmas Fern** (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
- **Nodding Rattlesnakeroot** (*Prenanthes crepidinea*)
- **Kidneyleaf Crowfoot** (*Ranunculus abortivus*)
- **Multiflora Rose** (*Rosa multiflora*)
- **Tall Coneflower** (*Rudbeckia laciniata* var. *laciniata*)
- **Early Saxifrage** (*Saxifraga virginensis*)
- **Wild Stonecrop** (*Sedum ternatum*)
- **Broadleaf Goldenrod** (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
- **Common Chickweed** (*Stellaria media* ssp. *media*)
- **Great Chickweed** (*Stellaria pubera*)
- **Dandelion** (*Taraxacum officinale* ssp. *officinale*)
- **Rue Anemone** (*Thalictrum thalictroides*)
- **Foamflower** (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
- **Eastern Poison Ivy** (*Toxicodendron radicans* ssp. *radicans*)
- **Wake Robin** (*Trillium erectum*)
- **Large-flowered Trillium** (*Trillium grandiflorum*)
- **Beaked Corn Salad** (*Valeriana radiata*)
- **Black Haw** (*Viburnum prunifolium*)
- **Sweet White Violet** (*Viola blanda*)
- **Canada Violet** (*Viola canadensis*)
- **Downy Wood Violet** (*Viola striata*)
- **Oriental Hawksbeard** (*Youngia japonica*)

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## Upcoming Events

The West Virginia Native Plant Society has an exciting two-day field trip planned for Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25. This trip will include explorations of Cheat Bridge, Gaudineer Knob, Glade Run and Blister Swamp.

**Saturday, June 24:** We will meet at Cheat Bridge on the Shavers Fork River at 9:30 a.m. to explore this high-elevation riparian habitat. Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*), False Asphodel (*Triantha glutinosa*), Canadian Burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*) and Loesel's Twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*) are among the plants we hope to observe.

Following this, we will proceed to Gaudineer Knob Scenic Area for a lunch break. There is a short loop trail in the dense second-growth red spruce forest where Southern Mountain Cranberry (*Vaccinium erythrocarpum*) can be found. We may also view the Gaudineer old growth forest and/or Glade Run, depending on time constraints.

Directions for Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Meet at Cheat Bridge, located on U.S. Route 250/SR 92, about 14 miles south of Huttonsville, WV, and about six miles north of Durbin, WV. There is a pull-out parking area beside the bridge over Shavers Fork River.

11:00 a.m. - Meet at the intersection of U.S. 250 and Forest Road 27. We will then proceed 1.8 miles on FR 27 and turn left on FR 27A. The road ends at Gaudineer Knob Scenic Area.

Please bring a packed lunch, water and good hiking shoes/boots. Sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended. Be prepared for wet and muddy conditions.

**Sunday, June 25:** Beginning at 9:30 a.m., we will travel to the remote Blister Swamp, located at the head of the East Fork of the Greenbrier River. Rare plants such as Gold Thread (*Coptis trifolia*), Purple Avens (*Geum rivale*) and Jacobs Ladder (*Polemonium vanbruntiae*) can be found in this circumneutral bog.

Directions for Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - Meet at the Bartow Ranger Station headquarters on U.S. 250/92 in Bartow, WV. Since we will be traveling several miles on rough roads and need to limit the number of vehicles, we will encourage carpooling from here in high-clearance 4WD vehicles. We will proceed north on SR 28, turning left on FR 112 and then left on FR 254. There is a locked gate at "The Pigs Ear" - we will have a key. Blister Swamp is located several miles beyond the gate.

Please bring a packed lunch, water and good hiking shoes/boots. Sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended. Be prepared for wet and muddy conditions. See the attached map to orient yourself to the trip locations.

Most of the nearest overnight accommodations are in Elkins, WV. The two closest motels are Valley View Motel in Mill Creek, WV, and the Boyer Motel in Arbovale, WV. Primitive camping in the Monongahela National Forest is available in the area. ❁



The view from Gaudineer Scenic Area.

**The WV Native Plant Society Annual Meeting and Field Trips will be held on August 25-27, 2023 in the Charles Town, WV area. The theme is Marl Marsh and Reclaimed Wetland - Historic Claymont Mansion. Check your email and our social media for more details.**

- **Friday, August 25, 4 to 6 p.m.** - Meet at the Claymont Mansion and join us for walk through the Claymont Society Grounds.
- **Saturday, August 26, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.** - Join the WV Native Plant Society at the Claymont Mansion on the veranda for the annual meeting and election of officers.
- **Saturday, August 26, 11 a.m. to ?** - Meet at the Claymont Mansion and caravan to the Cool Spring Preserve in Charles Town.
- **Sunday, August 27, 8:30 A.M. to ?** - Meet at the Claymont Mansion and caravan to Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve in Hedgesville.

## Thank You for Dedicated Service

The WVNPS would like to extend their sincere thanks to two of our dedicated board members for years of fantastic service to the organization.

**Judy Dumke:** Newsletter Editor  
Judy took over as editor of the Native Notes in 2009 after the sudden passing of Bill Grafton, founder and long-time editor of the newsletter. With no notice and little background in newsletter editing, Judy quickly took the reins and produced our newsletter for almost 14 years. Her dedication to excellence is greatly appreciated and we hope that she will continue to share her incredible knowledge as an ongoing newsletter contributor. Thank you so much, Judy!

**Judi White:** Treasurer  
Judi has been treasurer of the Society since 2012, doing a tireless and probably underappreciated job. She has made sure the membership dues are deposited, our bills are paid, and the all-important paperwork with the government is kept up to date. After over ten years of service, she is ready to hand in her Excel spreadsheet for a well-deserved rest. Thank you, Judi! ❁

## Check out our Social Media

Be sure to visit our webpage for much more information, photos and links to native plant resources.

[www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org)

Our Facebook page continues to grow and grow! We now have over 23,000 followers. It's a great place to learn about native plants and see what is blooming in your region. Many thanks to our dedicated Admins and Moderators for keeping things under control.  
[facebook.com/groups/wvnps](https://facebook.com/groups/wvnps)



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

## Getting the Word Out About Native Plants

Since April was proclaimed WV Native Plant Month, there has been a lot of interest in the statewide media about native plants. Here is a quick roundup of recent articles. Some may require a subscription to access.

- WV Public Broadcasting News Director Eric Douglas came out to Kanawha State Forest to record a segment for the West Virginia Morning show. The segment was originally broadcast on 4/20/23 and can be accessed here: [Celebrating Native Plants on WVPB](#)
- The Charleston Gazette and Daily Mail had two recent articles on native plants and Native Plant Month. The first article was published on in March and emphasized the dangers presented by invasive species. The second article in April reported on the signing of the WV Native Plant Month proclamation by Governor Justice.
- The Dominion Post published an article on Native Plant Month and the need for education about native versus non-native plants. The link is here: [Celebrating West Virginia Native Plant Month - Dominion Post](#)
- West Virginia Explorer Magazine published an article in March about the Native Plant Month initiative. Link here: [Native species in West Virginia](#)
- Our knowledgeable members are regularly asked to contribute to Wonderful West Virginia magazine. In the May 2023 issue, members contributed information on native berries and fruits. There were also very informative articles on butterflies and the "No Mow May" concept. ❁

## Volunteers needed

The WVNPS needs your help. After years of dedicated service, our newsletter editor and treasurer are “retiring” from active duty. We are looking for members who are willing to step up and fill their large shoes. Join us!

The following are general duty descriptions:

**Managing Newsletter Editor:** Responsible for issuing periodic newsletters, Native Notes, to WVNPS members. Manage the overall content and accuracy of newsletter materials; work with external editor to ensure timely development and delivery of the newsletter; solicit input and articles from members and external sources; work with membership secretary to ensure accurate mailing lists.

**Treasurer:** Responsible for all financial activities of the WVNPS. Receive membership dues; manage banking and investment accounts; provide regular updates to WVNPS board on society finances; ensure all society bills and obligations are paid; update government forms (state and federal) to maintain nonprofit status. ❁

## Neighboring States Native Plant Societies

Our neighboring states have robust Native Plant Societies that can provide a lot of information to interested West Virginians. There are reference materials, links to online educational programs, locations for native nurseries, and so much more! So, check them out!

- **Virginia** [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)
- **Maryland** [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org)
- **Pennsylvania** [www.panativeplantsociety.org](http://www.panativeplantsociety.org)
- **Kentucky** [www.knps.org](http://www.knps.org)



# WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Unless you indicate otherwise, all communications from the WVNPS will be via Email, Facebook or through our webpage, [www.wvnps.org](http://www.wvnps.org) - This saves us money!

### Membership Dues (for calendar year January 1 to December 31)

- Regular Membership:** \$12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Student Membership:** \$8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Lifetime Membership:** \$200 \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation to the WVNPS in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the West Virginia Native Plant Society  
**Bill Carlon, Treasurer**  
**858 Alta Road, Charleston WV 25314**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Regional Interests:

Kanawha Valley/Charleston Area \_\_\_\_\_ Tri-State/Huntington Area \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Panhandle Area \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Interest Areas:

Field Botany	Serving in a leadership capacity
Botanical Art	Public speaking/presentations
Photography	Leading field trips
Propagation	Display development
Stewardship or plantings or preserves	Publications

*By my signature above, I assume all risk of injury to myself and all risk of damage to and loss of my property arising out of my participation in activities of the West Virginia Native Plant Society (WVNPS). I am in proper physical health and conditioning for activities that I participate in, and release and forever discharge the WVNPS and any private property owners who provide space for activities from any and all liability for any injury, including death, and for property damage or loss which may be suffered by me, arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in WVNPS activities.*