

Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

NN Native Plant News

Fall 2009, Volume 6, No. 3

September's Native Plant Sale

The Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will hold its annual native plant sale on **Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The sale will take place, rain or shine, on the front lawn of the **Wicomico Parish Church Thrift Shop** on Route 200 in Wicomico Church.

A variety of native trees, shrubs, ferns and perennial flowers will be on sale, carefully marked for shade or sunny planting, including Eastern redbud, American beautyberry, spicebush, Virginia sweetspire, asters, bee balm, bloodroot, seashore mallow, and Virginia meadow beauty. Several grasses will also be available (*see Paula Boundy's article on page 4*).

"This sale is not only our lone fund raiser for the year, but an educational effort," said Earline Walker, a plant sale coordinator. "Experts will be on hand to answer gardening questions and explain the importance of native plants to our environment."

Jay Walker

Why Do We Sell Plants?

The plant sale is our only fund raiser. Most of the funds we raise are used for education and outreach, *e.g.*, we print pamphlets to help promote native plants, donate reference books or field guides about native plants to our four, local county libraries, and help support the Flora of Virginia Project (*see p. 5*). **Eds.**



Scenes from the Successful 2008 Plant Sale

Above and upper right *Earline Walker (photos)*

Your Board Members Pot Plants for the 2009 Sale

Earline W. and Patsy L. at work (right) *Carol Hammer (photo)*

Message from the President

Marie Minor

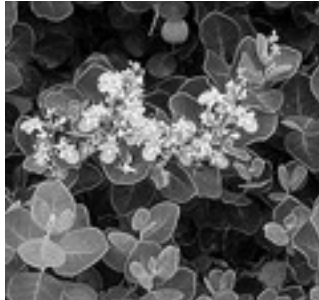
Hello, Fellow Chapter Members!

My! Hasn't this summer flown by fast? Here it is almost fall and it's time to get ready for more outings, meetings and events. Don't forget our annual Plant Sale to be held at Wicomico Church on Saturday, September 12 starting at 9 A.M. Bring your potted plants for the sale on Friday, September 11.

This summer we learned about a potentially invasive, alien shrub called beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) which has proven to be very aggressive to the beaches of North Carolina and southward. Beach vitex grows to 2 feet in height but its branches can spread as much as 60 feet! Indigenous to the Pacific Rim, it was introduced from Korea in the mid 80's by the North Carolina State Arboretum for erosion control. However, it has tap roots, which does not make it useful for holding fast sand, and it squeezes out native shore plants which do keep sand in place. It also threatens two federally-threatened species: the plant *Amaranthus pumilus* (seaside amaranth) and nesting areas for the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*).



Carol Hammer (photo)



Forest and Kim Starr (photo)

Beach vitex blooms in May with attractive flowers (photo). It spreads by seed and by brittle branches that break off at high tide and float to other shores to root. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Plant and Pest Services (VDACS) completed a formal beach vitex retail survey which prompted a letter from Commissioner Todd Haymore to all Virginia nursery growers and dealers requesting their assistance in "voluntarily refraining from selling or distributing beach vitex". **"Further, the VDACS is actively monitoring the issue and, if necessary, will take regulatory action to list and treat beach vitex as a noxious weed (emphasis added)".**

Buyer beware—I have found it offered for sale at on-line nursery web sites! If you do see this plant anywhere in your area, please call VDACS: 804-786-3515 to report. For further information, or to report a sighting, go to the following web site: www.beachvitex.org.

~Marie F. Minor

Wonderful Wildflowers in California

This spring I had an opportunity to hike in the mountains as well as on the coast of California. The wildflowers were a visual feast and I'm sure I bored my children to death as I stopped for each new sighting. Unfortunately, I had no means of identification except for a checklist containing no descriptions. I've been doing some research since my return and hope I've correctly identified them.

Driving up to the mountains, the hillsides were alive with beautiful, yellow chaparral (*Keckiella antirrhinoides*). A lovely 3-mile trail that hugged the edge of Big Bear Lake was filled with wonderful flowers and flowering shrubs of all colors, shapes and sizes, including mariposa lily (*Calochortus invenustus*), mountain whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*), bull thistles (*Cirsium vulgare*), blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), the endemic California phacelia (*Phacelia californica*), goat's beard (*Tragopogon dubius*), and others I have forgotten.

Several days later we ventured higher into the mountains for more adventurous hiking and saw masses of mountain phlox (*Phlox austromontana*),

as well as large numbers of evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*). The columbine were in bloom in large numbers as were two kinds of Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja linariifolia* and *C. montigena*), many lovely larkspur and a new one for me, wallflower (*Erysimum*).

We spent a few days in La Jolla where the coastal plants in the Scripps Institution's 1-mile loop Biodiversity Preserve trail are labeled. There were so many cacti! One of the most interesting shrubs, the bladderpod (*Cleome isomeris*), is host to the harlequin bug (*Murgantia histrionica*), which is as multi-colored as its name suggests and may spend its whole life cycle on one pod. I saw a number of them on one bush, each with its own pod.

Springtime is a wonderful time to travel the United States and be able to see flora unfamiliar to us in Virginia!

Tanya Bohlke

Nick Ferriter's Remarkable, Toppled-White-Oak Tree Root!



One of numerous casualties of July's freak storm. (Jackie Ferriter, photo)

Some Remarkable Virginia Trees

After Nancy Ross Hugo, co-author of the *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, presented her program to our chapter earlier this year, I along with several others just *had* to purchase her book. She was so right when she said that to see them properly, you have to physically stand under the trees and walk around them. Since then, I have gone on several outings to see a few of the trees mentioned in this splendid book.

Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond is described in the book as a wonderful place for seeing great trees, so when I next had an appointment in Richmond, I told my husband that we were going to add it to our agenda that day. I doubt either of us knew how interesting a stop this would be. In a small, church-like building at the entrance, for \$3.00 I purchased an *Historic Tree and Rose Tour Map* which shows the locations of 34 incredible trees. We drove around the cemetery and stopped many times to get a closer look. It's an amazing place! Although we did not see all 34 trees, those that we did find are awe-inspiring. Occasionally my husband is not impressed with places that I suggest we visit, but he truly admired the trees, the grandness of the area, its age and design.

I cannot imagine what it might be like there in the fall. **Anyone for a day out in Richmond?** (Yes—see back page! Eds.) Pam Collins

BIG TREE TRIPS



Champion Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, Westmoreland Ct. [Carol Hammer photo]



Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*, Popes Creek [Carol Hammer photo]



Chapter members in front of Champion Cherrybark Oak, *Quercus pagodaefolia*, Colonial Beach [Charlie Wilson photo]



Eastern red cedars, *Juniperus virginiana*, George Washington's Birthplace [Carol Hammer photo]



Hilda Wilson in front of Bodifernut, *Juglans cinerea*, Hampton [Charlie Wilson photo]



Judy Lang admiring Champion Cherrybark Oak, *Quercus pagodaefolia*, Colonial Beach [Carol Hammer photo]



Nancy Ross Hugo holding branch of Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*, Hampton; also known as the Emancipation Oak. [Carol Hammer photo]



Earline Walker with Champion Black Walnut branch [Carol Hammer photo]



Swamp bay, *Persea palustris*, Hampton [Carol Hammer photo]

**“O beautiful, for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain...”
(the opening lines of *America the Beautiful*)**

When did you last see amber waves of grain on the Northern Neck? You might have passed an abandoned pasture or farm field that is in the early stages of re-growth without really noticing the image. One native plant that is an early colonizer is *Andropogon virginicus*, known commonly as broomsedge. It isn't sedge at all but one of many native grasses that is taken for granted and usually treated as a weed. It is a warm season grass which grows and blooms in summer. When the seeds (grains) ripen, the plant goes dormant, resulting in foliage described as tan, rusty or amber. Add the breezes typical of the Northern Neck to a large stand of grasses and the attractive movement resembles waves.

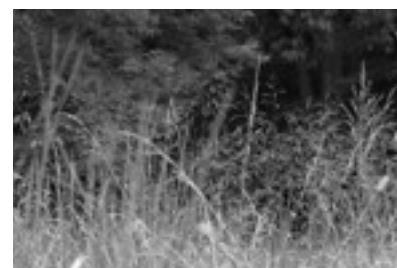
Including native grasses in your landscape and perennial beds introduces different textures to the garden as well as movement. Birds, such as goldfinches, bluebirds, and indigo buntings that come for the seeds will provide additional movement and color. The concept of using clumps of grass (bunchgrass) is important in garden design because they perform as filler plantings but do not take over by aggressive rhizomatous spreading such as is desired in lawn grasses. Native grasses for home garden use center around the bunchgrass concept so that flowering perennials will be able to compete favorably, in fact symbiotically, with the grasses. In fact, many of our native flowers use grasses as support structures!

When incorporating native grasses into a perennial garden, the rules of planting provide guidance. Group grasses in clumps of at least 3-5 to avoid a “bad hair transplant”¹ look. Or grasses can be the predominant, or sole, plant material and look very natural. Leave grasses standing over winter for color, food and cover for wildlife. They may be mown or cut to 3” in the following season for appearance or left as natural support for wildflowers in a meadow-type garden. In a mass planting or field, grasses require mowing or burning on a periodic (2-3 year) basis to prevent normal succession to bushes and trees.

The Chapter is very happy to feature Poaceae (grasses) in our September Native Plant Sale. Mr. Marion Packett, owner of Poplar Ridge Nursery, near Montross, VA, presented a program on grasses at our February, 2009 meeting, after which we were invited, along with the Northern Neck Master Gardeners, to visit and purchase plants at the nursery in April. A selection of his native grasses (*see below*) will be available either as 3” plugs, minimum purchase of 5, or in gallon containers. The Sale Coordinators encourage you to include one or more of the grasses from the following table in your landscape!

*Paula Boundy
Horticulture Chair*

¹Cullina, William. 2008. *Native Ferns Moss & Grasses: From Emerald Carpet to Amber Wave*. Houghton, Mifflin Co., NY. P. 117.



Examining Grasses at Poplar Ridge Nursery *Paula Boundy (photos)*

Tridens flavus, purpletop tridens, a local favorite *Judy Lang, (photos)*

Native Grasses and a Sedge for the 2009 Plant Sale

Scientific Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Feature/Use
<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	splitbeard bluestem	2 - 5' h 2' w	Silvery white. Feathery seed tuft. Dry, acidic soil or sand. Full sun. Mass or accent. Foliage curly in winter.
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania sedge	6 -10" h 14 - 20" w	Actually is a sedge. Popular due to tolerance of dry shade but also sun with moisture. Short and fills in gradually.
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	purple lovegrass	8 - 14" h 10 - 16" w	Well drained to dry poor soil. Full sun. Allow to self-seed. In late summer, “bloom” provides low purple haze. Mass plantings for best effect.
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	hairawn muhly or pink muhly	12 - 40" h 16 - 32" w	Well drained to dry soil. Full sun. Matures at 3 yr. Mass or accent. Late summer tassel bloom provides rose-purple haze; good if backlit by sunset.
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> species and cultivars 'Heavy Metal' and 'Shenandoah'	switchgrass or panic grass	3 - 4' h 2 - 4' w	Moist to dry. Sun to part sun. 'Heavy Metal' features silvery blue foliage 4' in bloom; 'Shenandoah' has green leaves tipped prominently in crimson, similar height. Accent or small mass. Species is plainer and taller/wider but excellent bird seed.
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem	1 - 4' h .5 - 2' w	Moist to dry. Sun to part shade. Summer foliage bluish-silver gray in fall rusty orange. Seeds favored by birds. Mass planting best but can be filler in perennial bed in clusters.
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass	3 - 5' h 2 - 3' w	Moist to dry. Sun to part sun. Large, wide leaves topped in late summer with coppery elongated blooms/seeds. Mass or small clusters.

The Flora of Virginia: A Resource for Naturalists

Virginia plant people have long needed their own flora. After all, the last reference on our plant life, *Flora Virginica*, was published in 1762, based on the collections and descriptions of Gloucester County naturalist John Clayton. The call for a flora remained alive for decades, thanks especially to the Virginia Academy of Science, but meanwhile everyone has had to make do. Sadly, floras created for other states or regions don't cut it for Virginia. We have more species than other states our size, thanks to the diverse topography between the ocean and mountains and to the convergence of ranges of northern and southern plants.

At last, in 2001, the Flora of Virginia Project was founded with a fourfold mission: (a) produce a comprehensive manual on the plants of Virginia; (b) provide a tool for plant identification and study by professional and avocational users, from academia, government, industry, and the public; (c) incorporate the latest genetics-based information on evolutionary relationships, along with the best traditional taxonomic approaches; and (d) increase interest in the appreciation and conservation of Virginia's diverse and unique botanical heritage.

As naturalists, you're going to find the *Flora of Virginia* helpful in many ways. For starters, a flora is more accurate and inclusive than other guides. The detailed, Virginia-specific descriptions will include notes on habitat, bloom time, range in the state, and, for 1,400 of our 3,600 species, botanically accurate illustrations to aid in identification. Taxonomic names will reflect the latest advances in genetics and be the most up-to-date available in one volume. In addition, as so many of you strive to incorporate more native plants in your own landscapes, the *Flora* will be especially useful, but it will also help you find relatives of your favorite cultivars and identify weeds—of course that depends on what you consider to be a weed!

Slated for publication in 2012, the *Flora of Virginia* will be a 1,400-page volume covering plants native to Virginia or which are naturalized here. The authors are Chris Ludwig (Chief Biologist, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage), Alan Weakley (Curator, University of North Carolina Herbarium) and Johnny Townsend (Botanist, Virginia Natural Heritage Program).

Much of the writing of taxonomic descriptions is behind us, as is much of the illustrating, and the plan is to have a complete manuscript by the end of 2010. We have begun to turn some attention to perfecting what we've done, fine-tuning ecological and habitat information, and editing the manuscript. Publication isn't far off.

We're also thinking of ways in which we can use the *Flora* in learning programs. Obviously, it will be a key text for plant taxonomy courses at Virginia colleges. But we're looking at K-12 and community and continuing education too.

With the Master Naturalist program, we have begun to discuss using the *Flora* in learning activities about plant classification and identification.

The latest excitement at the *Flora* is our recently redesigned website. Please check it out at floraofvirginia.org. You'll meet the authors, board of directors, and illustrators; you'll learn more about how the project came about, and see a preliminary section on the plants, which is targeted for much expansion.

You'll also see a section about support. The economic downturn came just as we were hitting our stride, and individual support of our work is more important than ever. We hope you'll want to give us a leg up.

Adapted from Bland Crowder, Editor, Flora of Virginia Project

Ann's Trail at Hickory Hollow

One of the reasons that Ann Messick, our founder and the first president of the NN Chapter of VNPS, was so beloved locally was for her instrumental role in helping to save Lancaster County's Hickory Hollow from industrial "development."

Initially purchased by the NN Chapter of the Audubon Society, and still maintained by its members as a Natural Area Preserve in partnership with the State of Virginia, Ann and husband Denny (center, with the folded umbrella) wandered its "interlaced" trails in all seasons and weather conditions.

On May 19, 2009, members of the Audubon Society, as well as family (in photo) and other friends of Ann gathered in the rain to rename the Yellow Trail (which she had named) to the botanically rich and unique Cabin Swamp as the Ann Messick Trail. Her family has placed a permanent bench made from a fallen tree along this trail. The bench has a plaque on its side noting her dedication to Hickory Hollow.

Eds. Carol Hammer (photo)



Exotic Natives: A. Scouringrush Horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale* subsp. *affine*)

As Horticulture Chair, I acquire and grow native plants for our September sale. At Genny Chase's Kilmarnock Garden Club design workshop last fall, I was impressed at how the Virginia native scouringrush horsetail, *Equisetum hyemale* subsp. *affine*, creates a strong vertical accent that can be bent at varying heights to an astonishing effect. Horsetail was not on my list of desirables at the time, but our current club President, Ruby Wilson, took some divisions.

This July, when I wanted a frog pond to further my new wildlife landscape, I found a library book and a current magazine on gardening for ponds. Since both had several horsetail photos, I begged Ruby to give me some for my future pond project and for our native plant sale. Although she agreed, I also acquired another chairmanship: sometimes things that spread like rhizomes aren't even plants, but friendships and involvement!



Ruby Wilson (photo)

According to Ruby, "Genny gave me a small clump that fit in my hand in early Fall and warned me of its invasiveness. I planted it in the middle of the barrel and by the next Fall this is what I got (photo). I have it planted in a shady area and I water it frequently. It loves moisture. In late Fall I cut it back to about 6-8 inches and in the Spring it grows back to 3-4 feet again."

What do we need to know about this native plant? *Equisetum* is not a rush. Nor is it a fern. Rather it's the single, surviving genus of a kind of primitive vascular plant that originated over 350 million years ago in the mid-Devonian period. Some ancient species were large trees and their dead bodies created much of the dirty coal we burn so recklessly today¹.

¹Reckless in terms of associated carbon dioxide emissions, *Eds.*

Today, horsetails are categorized as "fern allies" in large part because they, like the ferns, are non-flowering, seedless plants which form spores in sexual reproduction.

William Cullina's (2008) *Native Ferns, Moss & Grasses*, p. 58, says that horsetails are "highly architectural and starkly modern looking when confined to a pot or a sunken planter". Here we have an ancient, exotic looking plant with a modern appeal! It can be used in floral arrangements! It looks great in Zen gardens! It looks great next to water features and in the water! Just don't eat it or allow it loose in your garden.

Equisetum can be grown along waterways in full sun to shade, moist to wet, neutral to slightly acidic soils. It will grow in shallow water, but probably does not like salty water. Horsetail looks and acts like bamboo, however, it only grows 3 ft in height. The stems are grey green, 1/3 - 1/2" wide, cylindrical, hollow, and jointed, without discernable leaves and (of course) they have no flowers.



© R. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (photo)

The fertile stem ends in a strobilus that produces spores. The plants are generally evergreen, providing winter interest. To propagate, take a 6" length of rhizome in spring or fall and plant it **cautiously** in the appropriate site, or contain its spread by a physical barrier such as a pot or container. Unwanted spread can be controlled by pulling all stems as they appear.

As for wildlife use, one gardener reports that dragonflies like to use horsetail for perching. I can just visualize it...**Paula Boundy**

B. Sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeshynomene virginica*)

Sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeshynomene virginica*) is a large (3-6 ft high) annual herb in the pea family which gets its name from its compound leaves that fold slightly when touched. Each leaf consists of 30-56 leaflets.

The flower consists of partially united petals that are each about 1/2 inch long and yellow, with prominent red veins. Flowering begins in late July and continues into October. The fruits are pods about 3 inches long. They break into one-seeded segments capable of floating, which is thought to help disperse the seed.

Aeshynomene is native in freshwater to slightly brackish, tidal marshes of the Mid-Atlantic states. In Virginia, it occurs on the following rivers: Potomac, Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, James, and the Rappahanock—where, by the time this newsletter is printed, *some lucky members will have seen a stand growing in nature!*



© Jim Stasz @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

It prefers the lower edge of the inter-tidal marsh zone, receiving daily inundations. The soil may be mucky, sandy or gravelly.

The plants grows best in areas such as accreting point bars or low swales with limited competition from other marsh plants. Muskrats eat tall perennial vegetation and create openings in which sensitive joint-vetch can sometimes become established.

Population sizes fluctuate widely from year to year, yet *Aeshynomene* stands tend to appear at the same location year after year.

Sensitive joint-vetch is listed as federally threatened. On-going research will determine how human activities are impacting the plant and help direct protection efforts. A major threat is displacement by the aggressive, non-native common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Key to its conservation will include: protecting marsh sites; ensuring good water quality and water levels; and providing upland buffer zones bordering these marshes.

Landowners and managers can minimize impacts to sensitive joint-vetch habitat by implementing Best Management Practices.

Adapted by Judy Lang

Reference: (www.dcr.virginia.gov) *Natural Heritage Resources Factsheet* of the Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

Native Plant Outreach at the Hutchinson Tract



Brian Wood (photo)

Nick Ferriter and Earline Walker represented our chapter at a native plant society table, and donated some plants included in a raffle, at the May 16th "opening celebration" for the 727-acre Hutchinson Tract of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge which is located just west of Tappahannock on Rt. 17.

VNPS members are encouraged to join Marie Minor on one of her regular botanical surveys of the wildflower meadow, and of the nearly 2-mile long wildlife trail, in this newest addition to the Refuge (*see schedule on back page*). **Eds.**

NN Audubon Society

Meetings are 7:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock with Refreshments
Bird Walks - carpoolers leave Grace Episcopal Church at 7:15 am.
Look for details in the local media.

We Welcome Our New Members!

Bruce Anrzen, Reedville; Pam Narney, Colonial Beach;
Darleen Nelson, Montross; William Turns, Weems

Mole or Vole Problems?

Most of us encounter moles and/or voles (meadow mice or field mice) in our gardens and have difficulty in keeping them from destroying our plants. Denise Greene of Sassafras Farms says, "There are a couple of things you can do for moles, but they only eat insects and worms and won't damage your plants, so first decide if they're really a problem. If so, I recommend Mole Relief from Gardens Alive (www.gardensalive.com) on the Internet. If you find your plants' roots are being chewed, that's due to voles that tend to use mole tunnels to get around. You can control them by controlling the moles."

Hilda Wilson uses *Sure Stop Mole and Gopher Bait* which she buys from Murphy's Seed Company. Just a teaspoonful in each hole is needed. Someone else recommends putting crushed oyster shell (or equivalent) in each hole. Voles cannot tunnel through it. Information about vole control, identification, prevention and natural pest control measures, can be found at: <http://landscaping.about.com>

Good luck with your gardens!

Pam Collins

Officers

President..... Marie Minor (804) 925-5950 mfminor@toast.net
Vice President..... Carol Hammer (804) 453-5500 caroljhammer@aol.com
Secretaries:
Recording..... Judy Burgess
Corresponding Patsy Lockman
Treasurer..... Paula Boundy

Committee Chairs

Conservation..... Paula Boundy
Education..... Judy Lang (804) 453-6605 klang@riposi.net
Horticulture..... Paula Boundy
Hospitality..... Pam Collins, Jane Peterson
Membership..... Sandra Ehlert, (804) 453-3519 jehlert@haloisp.net
Newsletter..... Carol Hammer and Judy Lang
Nominating..... Jane Peterson, Nick Ferriter, Tanya Bohlke
Programs..... Earline Walker (speakers) Earlinedickinson@aol.com
..... Sally Caskie (trips) (804) 472-5128 caskie@rivnet.net
Publicity..... Jay Walker, Susan Christopher
Ways & Means.... OPEN (Plant Sale, Nick Ferriter and Earline Walker)

Other

Ex-President..... Nick Ferriter
Member at Large OPEN

Membership Fees

Individual: \$30
Family: \$40
Secondary: \$5 (goes to other chapters)

Send your check to:

VNPS Membership Chair
Blandy Experimental Farm
400 Blandy Lane, Unit 2
Boyce, VA 22602

In the lower left hand corner of your check add:

"Membership, Northern Neck Chapter"

All memberships are good for one year from the month you join.
The state office of VNPS will send you a renewal reminder.

See upper right hand corner of address label for renewal date.

Please advise us if our records are incorrect.

All but \$5.00 of any membership is tax deductible.

Help us keep in touch with you!

Whenever your email address, phone number or postal address changes, please contact Sandra Ehlert.

Email Carol Hammer if you would prefer to conserve resources and receive the newsletter via email.

NN Chapter of the VNPS Calendar

Sep. 10, Thur.	10:00 a.m. Reedville Fishermen's Museum & Heathsville's Old Courthouse— <i>Northumberland County's Public Native Plant Gardens</i> . Horticulture Chair & Master Naturalist, Paula Boundy (leader)
Sep. 12, Sat.	9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Wicomico Parish Church Thrift Shop— <i>Native Plant Sale</i>
Sep. 17, Thur.	Noon. Wicomico Parish Church— <i>Sandy Spencer, Wildlife Biologist, Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, on Pollinators and Their Importance to Native Plants.</i>
Sep. 24, Thur.	10:00 a.m. George Washington Birthplace National Monument— <i>Woodland Native Plant Walk & Picnic Lunch</i> . Paula Boundy (leader)
Oct. 3, Sat.	10:00 a.m. Hickory Hollow Natural Area Preserve— <i>Fall Mushroom Walk</i> . Master Naturalist, Tom Teeples (leader)
Oct. 15, Thur.	Noon. Wicomico Parish Church— <i>Annual General Meeting & Activities Slide Show</i> . Lunch provided by the Board.
Oct. 22, Thur.	10:00 a.m. Menokin Historic Site— <i>Fall Tree Walk & Tour</i> . Master Naturalist, Earline Walker (leader)
Oct. 29, Thur.	10:00 a.m. Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond— <i>Remarkable and Historic Big Tree Tour & Picnic Lunch</i> . Hilda and Charlie Wilson (leaders)
Nov. 19, Thur.	Noon. Wicomico Parish Church— <i>Joseph McCauly, Manager, Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, on the newly opened Hutchinson Tract.</i>
expect more!	Additional outings will be announced to our members via email.

Hutchinson Tract Botanical Surveys with Marie Minor

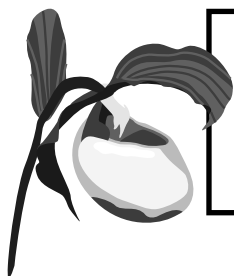
All members are welcome to walk with Marie as she botanizes the Hutchinson Tract. It's a real joy: you are guaranteed to learn something new and possibly find something there that was unexpected! You may wish to bring water, bug spray when necessary, and binoculars for bird viewing as well. Survey dates and times remaining in 2009 are listed below. **Until the tract is fully open to the public, you must contact Marie in advance so that she may obtain parking passes for all at:**

**mfminor@haloisp.net
or call (804)-925-5950.**

Beginning at 9 a.m.:
September 9, 16, 23
Beginning at 10 a.m.:
October 7, 21

Driving directions for all field outings will be emailed to members in the week before each outing.

For more information, contact:
Sally Caskie at: caskie@rivnet.net
or: (804) 472-5128



Northern Neck Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 158
Millers Tavern, VA 23115

Note expiration date.
Please renew as needed if record is correct, or contact us if incorrect..