



NORTHERN NECK CHAPTER  
Virginia Native Plant Society

Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society  
"Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places"

# NN Native Plant News

Fall 2015, Volume 12, No. 3

## NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Saturday**  
**September 12**  
**9:00 a.m. - Noon**

*Kosteleskya virginica*, seashore mallow

Joan Hattersley (artwork)

## Message from the President



Photo: Janet Pawlukiewicz

Each year I look forward to our Chapter Native Plant Sale – especially so that I can buy plants grown locally that fit the criteria we set for our Plant Northern Neck Natives guide. We do extend the selection to include other natives that grow well here, such as Stokes Aster [*Stokesia laevis*], Purple Coneflower [*Echinacea purpurea*] or Orange coneflower [*Rudbeckia fulgida*]. A popular shrub available each year thanks to Nick Ferriter is American Beauty-berry [*Callicarpa americana*]. In fact it is the cover of the guide!

If you are not already doing so, please propagate native plants from your garden to sell at the plant sale, volunteer for set-up on Friday and during the sale on Saturday September 12th. Buy too!

*Paula Boudy*

### Ladyslipper Pollination/Reproduction and Thoughts on Hickory Hollow

Cypripedium flowers are generally self-compatible (Harrod & Knecht 1994) but insects are required to transfer pollen to the stigma. Rather than the discrete, waxy packets of pollen known as pollinia that are found in other orchids, cypripedium pollen masses are granular and often viscid sticky. The lip or labellum of these orchids is inflated into a sac-like structure and this floral morphology is key to their mode of pollination. The labellum has an upper orifice with a smooth margin that affords no purchase and an infolded margin and side lobes that block escape by visiting insects should they fall into the pouch. Insects are generally unable to exit by the route in which they entered. In attempting to escape, insects are guided to climb a particular interior portion of the pouch and then under one of two anthers and out through one of the basal orifices. If they are of the correct size they receive a smudge of granular pollen on the dorsum and may transfer the pollen to the stigma of the same flower or another plant. The flowers are visited by a diverse group of insects in the Hymenoptera (wasps, ants and bees), Diptera (flies), Coleoptera (beetles), Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) and Thysanoptera (thrips; Nilsson 1979), but the flowers' particular structure means that only insects of certain size and behavior can effect pollination.

The flowers of ladyslipper orchids do not produce nectar. Pollinators appear to be attracted by the color and fragrance of the flowers (Sugiura et al. 2001). The odors of ladyslippers may include acetates (Vance 2007), terpenes (Overton & Manura 1999) or benzenoid compounds (Bergström 1991) and it is thought that they may mimic pheromones of some insects or indicate the presence of food ("food deception"). However, though it has been proposed that the flowers produce pheromone-mimic scents that attract male bees that come to "mate," in some species it is female bees that are attracted. Demonstrated pollinators of the North American Cypripedium species vary, but most are Hymenoptera. *Cypripedium pubescens* (Yellow Ladyslipper) is pollinated by males of the small carpenter bee, *Ceratinah calcarata* (Stoutamire 1967).

Orchid seeds unlike those of other flowering plants lack a seed coat, differentiated embryo and endosperm. Like other orchids, Cypripedium seeds germinate in association, seeds are very small, waterproof and can float, suggesting dispersal by water. This leads me to question the wisdom of thwarting Beavers at Hickory Hollow Preserve. Perhaps periodic flooding is beneficial to the Kentucky Yellow Ladyslipper? Wind and even animals have been suggested as other possible modes of dispersal (Vance 2007). At least some ladyslipper orchids regularly reproduce vegetatively by producing offsets—outgrowths of the rhizome that may become separate plants (Cribb 1997). Ladyslippers tend to be long-lived and individual plants have persisted for over 30 years (Harrod 1994).

It has been noted that the rhizomes of some terrestrial orchids, including Cypripedium, may not produce above-ground organs (leaves, stems and flowers) every year and can enter an underground mycotrophic state known as "dormancy" (Primack & Stacy 1998, Shefferson et al. 2005). A variety of causes have been proposed in the induction of dormancy—stress of flowering, fruiting, damage from herbivores or mechanical damage to the plant—but there are contradictions in studies (Shefferson & Simms 2007).

**Medicinal Uses** - The root was formerly much used in North America both by indigenous and immigrant peoples for its sedative and antispasmodic properties and to counter insomnia and nervous tension. *C. parvifolium* was the most important medicinal ladyslipper in North America.

## Upcoming Talks in the Northern Neck

### September Meeting - Creating Floral Designs with Native Plants



From left to right are—Kathie Truxall, Debbie Gillispie, Sharon Lemke, and Rebecca Elston

Let your creative juices flow! Our regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 17 at noon at the Wicomico Parish Church will feature members of the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club who will share tips on creating beautiful displays using Northern Neck native plants. The session will include a demonstration and a hands-on workshop. So, bring your own vase or other container for your creation, some gloves and clippers, clippings of your favorite native plants and get ready to work.

The Chesapeake Garden Club received a blue ribbon from the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs when they held a similar workshop during our special event at Stratford Hall last fall. As you can see, their creations were lovely and even attracted pollinators!



Bumblebee on boneset in one of the arrangements.

*Text & Photos: Janet Pawlukiewicz*

### October Meeting - The Importance of Northern Neck Wetlands



Although the acreage of wetlands on the Northern Neck is small compared to forest and farm fields, these habitats are extremely important for maintaining our quality of life. This presentation will describe the region's non-tidal and tidal wetland habitats and how to recognize native plants that indicate wetland locations. Reasons why it is important to include wetlands in landscape designs and landscape management practices will also be provided.

Karen Duhring is a coastal scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, VA. She has 25 years of experience in shoreline management, coastal habitats, and environmentally friendly landscaping. Karen has personally visited hundreds of Northern Neck shorelines as a coastal advisor to property owners, local governments, and Wetlands Boards. She also provides outreach education and training for various audiences. She and her husband, Michael, live in Heathsville, Virginia.

*Text & Photo: Karen Duhring*

## 2015 Education and Outreach Calendar

Sept. 12, Saturday	<b>9:00 am - Noon.</b> <i>NNVNPS Plant Sale.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church, Wicomico, VA
Sept. 13 Sunday	<b>1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.</b> <i>Boots &amp; BBQ.</i> King Copsico Farm, Rt. 626, Mt Holly, VA
Sept. 19 or 20 Saturday/Sunday	<b>11:00 am - 6:00 pm.</b> <i>Stratford Hall Wine &amp; Oyster Festival.</i> Stratford Hall, Montross, VA

## STRATFORD HALL Shady Garden @Ticket House

**Site location.** Wood Edge island near parking for Ticket House at Entrance. Existing boomerang shaped garden with existing semi-mature trees but no herbaceous layer.

**Site analysis.** Existing early-mature trees [tulip poplar, dogwood, sweet gum, hickory] in a narrow boomerang shaped edge habitat; newly composted & mulched; obvious vole habitat. Part sun-part shade exposure. Soil recently amended with organic matter hopefully will enhance moisture retention under trees. There will be root competition from the existing semi-mature trees. The herbaceous planting areas may be limited by this.

**Site bonus!** Near the new planned garden are natural areas with wonderful existing NNK natives. These will be identified as a part of the conservation component of the GNGN project. Seen at various times during planning were Christmas and other ferns, Bluets, Elephant's foot, Mountain Laurel, Blueberry, and various trees, mosses, vines and violets.

**Site plant suggestions.** Considerations in plant choices are to favor plants included in published NNK shady garden plan but also to have plants appropriate to this specific site AND considering vole infestation. Water will be available from the Ticket House to get garden established. Future watering should be negligible unless droughty conditions occur. Availability was largely a factor.

Plant list sorted into season of flowering interest from Spring to Fall:

<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Plantain-leaf Pussytoes
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	Rue-anemone
<i>Viola pedata</i>	Bird's-foot Violet
<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	Thimbleweed
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild columbine
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	American alumroot
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	Southern Sundrops
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf sage
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly-weed
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue mistflower
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Bluestem goldenrod
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White wood aster



The garden was planted by a group of Northern Neck Master Naturalists under the design guidance of Paula Boundy and plant supplier, Denise Green of Sassafra Farm, on April 30, 2015. Even just after planting, the new garden showed beauty and promise with the anemone and violets in bloom. Fortunately, there has been sufficient natural rain to establish the plants and get them off to a healthy start! Janet Pawlukiewicz and Paula visited the garden in early July to inventory the plants for GNGN plant ID stakes and did some weeding – mostly tulip poplar seedlings.

Stratford Hall and the Go Native Grow Native, Plant Northern Neck Natives project are grateful to Carol Heiser of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for the funding.

If you are in the vicinity, plan to visit this garden in 2016 when the plants will be 'staked' for identification and will have had some time to flourish!



## Belle Isle State Park Invasives Removal Day activities

Removing dense brambles of invasive multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), commonly entangled with greenbriar (*Smilax rotundifolia*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and/or poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), as well as invasive privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and autumn olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*) was the task energetically tackled by three NNNPS members (Nancy Garvey, Jim Kurdziel, Judy Lang), four Friends of Belle Isle State Park (Joe Hecht, Ralph Short, Wendy Short, Gary Silverman), Nick Ferriter (who is a member of both organizations), District 1 Resource Specialist Erik Molleen, Chief Ranger Katherine Shepard, and Park Naturalist Brandon Wiseman on Saturday, May 30 at Belle Isle State Park.



From left to right: Wendy Short, Ralph Short, Judy Lang, Jim Kurdziel, Erik Molleen, Nick Ferriter, Joe Hecht, Gary Silverman, Nancy Garvey, Brandon Wiseman with the NNNPS Remove Invasive Plants headstone.

Text: Judy Lang/Photo: Katherine Shepard

## 2015 NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH



January - Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)



February - Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*)



March - Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)



April - Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)



May - Bird's foot violet (*Viola pedata*)



June - Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*)



July - Common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

### Officers

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### Membership Fees

Individual: \$30  
Family: \$40

Secondary: \$5 (goes to another chapter)

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.

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

### Please Help Us Keep in Touch with You!

Whenever your email address, phone number or postal address changes, please contact:

John Krainock at [jkrainock@usa.net](mailto:jkrainock@usa.net) or  
(804) 472-3051

**Whenever you can, please carpool to our meetings, field outings and other activities.**

**NN Chapter of the VNPS Outings and Meetings Calendar:  
Chapter Meetings & Saturday Outings are open to the public**

Sept. 12, Saturday	<b>9:00 am - Noon.</b> <i>NNVNPS Plant Sale.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Contact: Paula Boundy.
Sept. 17, Thursday	<b>Noon.</b> <i>Creating Floral Designs with Native Plants.</i> Presenters: Chesapeake Bay Garden Club. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
Oct. 15, Thursday	<b>Noon.</b> <i>The Importance of Northern Neck Wetlands.</i> Speaker: Karen Duhring, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
Nov. 19, Thursday	<b>Noon.</b> <i>Native Plants in the Web of Life: A Photo Journal.</i> Speaker Janet Pawlukiewicz, Project Manager for the Plant NNK Natives Campaign. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).

**Welcome to Our  
Newest Members**

*Winnifred Carrigan  
Lise Maring  
Betsy Washington & Kevin Howe*

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**Newsletter: three issues annually.**

**Send ideas, articles, photos, etc.,  
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