



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 2016, Volume 13, No. 3

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday
September 17
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Kosteletzkya virginica, seashore mallow
Joan Hattersley (artwork)

Message from the President



On June 18th, I led a walk at Hughlett Point to wonder at mosses growing in a coastal wetland. Thanks to attendee Linda Schaff for snapping a pic of me happily admiring a lush growth of moss. Our experience was enhanced by having Helen Hamilton along. Helen is producing a book on mosses, lichens and liverworts! She gathered some samples and exclaimed over the mosses we saw. There was some tentative identification going on but mosses are complex and small. Did you notice the lichen on the front of *Sempervirens* Summer issue? If not, check it out at:

<http://vnps.org/download/sempervirens/Sempervirens%20June%202016.pdf>

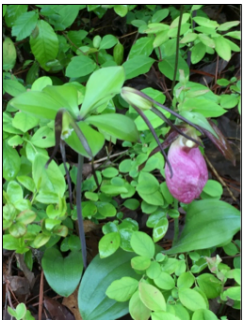
I had grand plans to attempt to have some mosses propagated for our September 17th Plant Sale; however, I got involved in some other projects and have been barely able to keep the asters I am 'sitting' watered. It has been SO HOT. I am sure our Sale will be sizzling too with our wonderful collection of natives for sale. See you there!

Paula Boundy

On the Beaten Path

So often Native Plant Society guided walks take us *off* the beaten path through lovely woodlands, glades and glens. Brilliant and subtle colors; sweet and musky fragrances. Birds singing, screeching, whistling. Squirrels racing through the trees and hikers shuffling through the fallen leaves. But challenges like ankle-grabbing roots, slippery slopes, leaf-covered quagmires, undulating ground and unmanageable distances deny these wonders to many.

On May 7 the Northern Neck Chapter travelled in the opposite direction. Marie Minor, chapter past-president, led a group of nature lovers, some with limited mobility, up and down Field Trial Road along a portion of Chilton Woods State Forest. The chapter developed this event in part to make native plants accessible to people not able to manage traditional walks. People with walkers and wheelchairs were invited to participate. The relatively short walk, just a thousand yards from the orchid patch to the azalea wall and back, explored in this compact venue a diverse blend of native plants. An intermixed orchid colony of Pink Lady Slippers and Large Whorled Pogonias got the walk off to a spectacular start. Marie identified each plant and explained its botanical, cultural and medicinal significance. Walkers were encouraged to point to a plant, flower or berry and ask, "What's this?" "This" included a stretch of Lyre Leaf Sage lining the road like Fourth of July revelers watching a parade; Pussytoes buds ready to pop into fuzzy blooms; and several types of ferns, including Christmas Ferns, Sensitive Ferns and Cinnamon Ferns with long brown fruiting bodies. Marie noted that Deerberries and Huckleberries are related species and found a blooming pair, side-by-side, enabling easy comparison of their similar leaves while contrasting their different flower types. The occasional appearance of a Partridge Berry, Violet, or Quaker Lady added elements of surprise and discovery. For the grand finale, a fragrant blanket of white native Azaleas cascaded over a shaded bank.



Large Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*) and Pink Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*)



Marie (center) points out a plant of interest and tells its story while birder looks up

People who attended chapter public meetings were more aware of mosses and lichens along the way thanks to our February speaker, Pat Reilly. A patch of British Soldier lichens with their bright red hats stood guard atop the bank across the road. The observant hikers noted that the flower species on one side of the road differed from the other side due, no doubt, to the varying availability and timing of sunlight throughout the day. Marie prepared to host the walk by scouting the road for current plants of interest and developed information on 23 different species.

Instead of a garden tour in a man-made setting, this walkabout spotlighted plants in their natural surroundings, affording walkers all of the ambient sights and sounds of a walk in the woods. As it turned out, we learned that you don't have to go off the beaten path to find things both beautiful and extraordinary.



British Soldier Lichens (*Cladonia cristatella*)

Photos/Text: Jim Kurdziel

Two Summer Projects of Interest, Inspiration and Imagination!

This past May, Karen Duhring from VIMS came to Belle Isle State Park to assist in wetlands identification. During our field work conversations - somewhat off topic though, she said that there is an actual name for what I have done in my front yard. Hugelkultur. She sent me this link: <http://www.richsoil.com/hugelkultur/>

Well, I was inspired to try this again since there were some additional largish logs from previous tree trimming and much recent trimmings from the removal of Japanese holly hedge in my yard. I had dirt from a former raised vegetable bed that had gone to weeds because I had not taken action on making it a native plant garden yet. That location had been in my head for a rain garden/frog pond combination.



My Hugelkultur is sited in my front yard between the cedar trees out near the road. I hope that it gives some privacy eventually as the plants grow. I did not have quite the materials - or strength - to make a garden like the drawing. But the big log does form the berm and the dirt was moved from the back yard to cover it. The digging of the dirt began my rain garden.

Presently my Hugelkultur has lyre leaf sage, black eye susans, white coneflower, violets, spiderwort, Virginia creeper, and blue mist flower planted on it. This fall I hope to add some native shrubs. After a rain, some white mushrooms sprouted but the heat and sun quickly ended those.

Meanwhile, the rain garden is partially dug out and planted with ferns, soft rush, blue vervain, swamp milkweed, Gray's sedge, purple coneflower, switchgrass and Cut-leaf coneflower. A buttonbush is growing nearby. More digging to enlarge the garden will be done eventually and am planning on adding some shrubs. Come see my two new projects!

Submitted by Paula Boundy

Walks and Talks in the Northern Neck

Charlie & Hilda Wilson's Wooded Ravine April 15, 2016



Earth Day Festival at Heathsville April 16, 2016



Photos by Paula Boundy

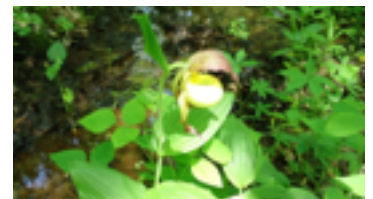
Hickory Hollow *Asclepius variegata* - June 2016

Photos by Zac Bradford, VA DCR, DNH Biologist



KYL Pollination Visit - June 2016

Photos by Katharina Bergdoll



RareQuest MN Project: *Stewartia ovata*, *Mountain camellia*



With no advanced knowledge of the plants we would be asked to locate, Bill Blair and I along with others from the Master Naturalists around the state volunteered for Project RareQuest. Project RareQuest is a pilot project to involve trained Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers in monitoring occurrences of rare species of plants and animals, many of which have not been seen in many years. It is a partnership with the [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program](#), and it is funded in part by the [Virginia Native Plant Society](#).

Bill and I volunteered to find plants in our area. Packets were given out and in each case, we were given approximate locations of each of the three plants in our area which we were to locate and record if found. Our first learning tool was to take the online RareQuest class to learn what was expected and to become familiar with the applications that would record our findings. One of the three plants we were to locate was a mountain camellia, *Stewartia ovata*, last surveyed in Lancaster County in 1960. We were given plots of land (many acres) for us to contact owners to get their permission to look for this in bloom in June.

Bill, a Master Gardener and plant man extraordinaire and I divided up the work. I was to contact all property owners to obtain permission and he would do all the data entry work given the apps we were told to input our information. Both of us would go into the field to try and locate the rare occurrence of the mountain camellia in our area.

I thought my job would be easy, however, we were not given telephone numbers, only addresses of those who owned the property. I used the Internet to obtain as many phone numbers as possible and began contacting those I could. For those without a telephone contact, I sent a letter of introduction and asked for their permission to look for the mountain camellia. All but one person I contacted graciously offered their property for us to try our luck in locating the plant. Many were excited about this project and a few offered to walk with us.

With all our ducks in a row, Bill, John and I met early one morning. Property owners Bill and Betty joined us on the hunt. We planned on first going to the address where we were told one of the shrubs existed and were met by the property owner, Peter and Betty, a woman who told us of the existence of the plant on Peter's property.

We were pleased to find a healthy mountain camellia in bloom among mountain laurel shrubs on this particular property. It was exciting in that I had never seen this plant much less in bloom. The flowers on it were white with delicate undulating edges. We took photos and spoke to the land owner about other possible sightings. We walked along the bank where we hoped to find other plants.. Over the next few hours, we searched other nearby properties to see if any other mountain camellias existed. Although disappointed in not finding one other shrub, we were very happy to have located the one in bloom. The day was a success and Bill finished his part of the project by sending all the information to the state via the applications he had on his device.

With a good working team and the luck of some local input, our job was made easy. Not only that, we met some wonderful people who were very interesting and interested in our project. Never underestimate how much fun a project can be!



Submitted by Carol Hammer

Summer Gardens Tour

Participants in the Northern Neck Native Plant Society "Summer Gardens Tour" visited five of the gardens featured in a new complimentary guide to demonstration gardens on the Northern Neck. Look for the Native Plants Garden Trail at the Lancaster Community Library and on line at www.nnnps.org.



From left, Bill and Beth Novice, Rosemary Francis and Ted Munns explore the garden at the Old Courthouse in Heathsville.

Text/Photos: Judy Lang

Boys & Girls Club

**Garden Demo
August 2, 2016**



Photos: Nancy Garvey



2016 Tentative Education and Outreach Calendar

February thru November	Ongoing collaboration between the Native Plant Society and the Boys & Girls Club and Wild Bunch Wildlife Rehabilitation on the maintenance of the demonstration gardens.
Sept. 17 Saturday	9:00 am - 1:00 pm. <i>NNVNPS Plant Sale.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church, Wicomico, VA. Member setup will be on Friday, Sept. 16, beginning at 9:00 am until finished.
Sept. 25 Sunday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. <i>Boots and Barbeque.</i> Sabine Hall "Juggs Farmhouse," Richmond County.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

*Maeve Charlesworth
John Clements
Mary Kukla
Peggy Pursley*

CafePress!

Don't forget to check out our special shop that supports the Northern Neck Native Plant Society. Visit cafepress.com/nnnps to purchase items that feature our lovely native plants. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Northern Neck Native Plant Society.

DID YOU KNOW!

"A traditional folk remedy, known among people in Mississippi's hill country for at least a century, may provide some relief without all the worries of DEET and other harsh chemicals. Scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service housed at the National Center for Natural Products Research at the University of Mississippi have isolated compounds in the American beautyberry plant, *Callicarpa americana*, that may keep chomping insects away.

My grandfather would cut branches with the leaves still on them and crush the leaves, then he and his brothers would stick the branches between the harness and the horse to keep deerflies, horseflies and mosquitoes away," said Charles T. Bryson, an ARS botanist in Stoneville, Miss. "I was a small child, maybe 7 or 8 years old, when he told me about the plant the first time. For almost 40 years, I've grabbed a handful of leaves, crushed them and rubbed them on my skin with the same results."

Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/07/060703091932.htm>

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.....Bette Gruben bettegruben@gmail.com

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.

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 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 (unless noted)

Aug. 25 Thursday Members Only Field Trip	9:00 am - 11:00 am. <i>Two Too Cool.</i> Leaders: Bette Gruben and Nancy Garvey will hostess a tour of their native plant gardens that exemplify our woodland/forest conservation focus (and let us cool off at their houses afterwards). Nearby there are naturally existing Bald Cypress trees saved by Ann Messick. Meet at Nancy's: 154 Locust Gove Lane, Kilmarnock (804-436-8401)
Sept. 9-11 Fri-Sun.	<i>VNPS Annual Meeting 2016.</i> Blacksburg, VA. Please visit VNPS website: http://vnps.org/events/vnps-annual-meeting/ for details.
Sept. 16 Friday	9:00 am. <i>NNK NPS Plant Pre-Sale Setup.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Set-up by members beginning at 900 am until finished.
Sept. 17 Saturday	9:00 am - Noon. <i>NNK NPS Plant Sale.</i> Our annual Native Plant Sale!!! Members need to be present on Saturday by 8:00 am for sale to public at 9:00 am.
Sept. 22 Thursday	Noon - 1:30 pm. <i>TBD.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00). After meeting plants may be available for purchase. NOTE Date Change!
Oct. 20 Thursday	Noon - 1:30 pm. <i>Chapter Annual Meeting/Officer Elections & Program: Video Moss Gardening</i> and photos featuring highlights of past two years. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Buffet lunch provided. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
Oct. 22 Saturday Field Trip	Noon - 1:30 pm. <i>Fall Colorful Walk at Vorhees Nature Trail.</i> Leader: Paula Boundy will guide us on a nature trail walk to observe fall last colors, seeds, berries, etc. Meet at Westmoreland Berry Farm parking lot. After walk, enjoy refreshments at the Snack Bar.
Nov. 5 Saturday Field Trip	10:00 am - Noon. <i>Menokin Tree Trail.</i> Leader: TBD. There is a walking trail at Menokin with many Northern Neck native trees identified along the way to Cat Point Green and a new canoe/kayak launch - an excellent collection to enjoy. Meet at the Visitor Center.
Nov. 17 Thursday	Noon - 1:30 pm. <i>TBD.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).

Be Sure to Check Your Local Paper for More Details on NNNPS Meetings and Events

Expect More!

Additional outings will be announced to our members via email. All walks are weather permitting. Driving directions will be emailed to members in the week before each outing and are included in publicity releases.

For more information contact Paula Boundy at 804-436-4944 or e-mail at paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net

Visit Our Chapter Website at:

<http://www.nnnps.org>

Newsletter: three issues annually.

Send ideas, articles, photos, etc., by December 1st to bayfishers3@aol.com

Friend Us on Facebook!
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Virginia Native Plant Society
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Reedville, VA 22539**

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