

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

NN Native Plant News

Spring 2013, Volume 10, No. 2

GO NATIVE, GROW NATIVE CAMPAIGN



On February 21, the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plants Society and partner organizations launched its *Go Native*, *Grow Native* campaign to promote the use of native plants and assist local residents in using them in their gardens. The *Go Native*, *Grow Native* campaign is gaining momentum rapidly with partners coming in and products rolling out.

Just in case you haven't seen the logo that has been developed by the campaign, here it is on the left! The final logo is Barb Brecher's modification of Bette Gruben's original design! These wildflowers were chosen for their color contrast to the wording, their recognition and, most importantly, their indigenous nature.

A grant proposal is in for approval at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce, submitted through Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, a division of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. This grant will provide substantial funding to publish the multi-page, full color glossy print guide currently being developed. It will be **FREE** for distribution to Northern Neck residents to use as a tool to identify indigenous native plants already on their property or to identify sustainable plants for their gardens and landscape.

The campaign is partnering with local retail garden centers and growers so that the featured native plants are available for purchase. These partners will stock native plants that will be featured with tags and signage as Northern Neck natives.

Additional partners, including of course our Chapter, and the Northern Neck Chapter of the National Audubon Society, will provide additional funding and others, including the Northern Neck Chapters of Virginia Master Naturalists and Gardeners and local Garden Clubs, will provide volunteer time.

Demonstration gardens, such as the native plant garden at the Old Courthouse in Heathsville, will receive plant identification stakes and publicity about which native plants can be seen growing there - a visit to the garden will provide a visual incentive to garden with those plants!

Under the leadership of Janet Pawlukiewicz, the committee worked with Jeff Wainscott who compiled the list of indigenous Northern Neck native plants to be included in the guide. He defined the list using the names used in the new Flora of Virginia, the geographical identity of plants on the website of the Digital Atlas of Virginia, and other publications and websites. The criteria used in selection include plants that are garden or landscape worthy and are indigenous to at least one county on the Northern Neck. This latter criterion was necessary as a requirement from the government grant for a unique guide. Consequently, an indigenous orchid may not be included in the Northern Neck guide because it is not a possibility for a garden and a plant native to the mid-west, such as *Echinacea purpurea*, purple coneflower, will not be included although it will grow on the Northern Neck. The committee is grateful for design guidance on the layout and "look" of the guide as provided by Barb Brecher. Publication of the guide, pending funding, is planned for later this spring.



Go Native Grow Native Plant of the Month for March 2013 Magnolia virginiana

As a side benefit of the *Go Native Grow Native* campaign, the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will have its own website! Bonnie Wilson who designs/masters several other Northern Neck sites graciously agreed to do ours and is "building" the site. Meanwhile, the campaign has received publicity from the Rappahannock Record, as arranged by Nick Ferriter, in the form of monthly Native Plant of the Month photo and copy as written by Gary Chaffin, our Chapter Horticulture Chair. Photography for the articles and the guide has been from local sources when possible and has been coordinated by Carol Hammer. The list of plants will be posted on the website very soon.

The excitement and enthusiasm is growing just like our plants! Jump on board.

Text: Paula Boundy/Photo: Philip Merritt

Message from the President

When is this winter going to end? We haven't had any hard freezes or any deep snows, yet this drab and dull winter just seems to go on and on. Indoors, however, the excitement has been hot! We have formally announced our signature outreach program *GO NATIVE*, *GROW NATIVE* campaign by enrolling government, nursery, and volunteers into a partnership vigorously promoting the use of plants that are native to the counties of the Northern Neck. Publication of a color booklet is in the works and a grant proposal has been submitted to help pay for our efforts.

Our local newspapers have been publishing an illustrated native "Plant of the Month" column generating interest in some of the showy but underutilized plant species found locally. By now, some libraries in the area have been presented the just published Flora of Virginia, a major compendium of all plant species in the Commonwealth. Our Chapter donated funds through the years to have the book researched, verified, and printed.



More news on our outreach: A web site is being developed to allow members and the public to access our many scheduled events, programs, speakers, and specials. Speaking of specials, we have designed a "Friends Don't Let Friends Plant Invasives" tee-shirt that is available for purchase. One of the successful events last month was our participation in the annual "Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar" hosted by the Northern Neck Master Gardeners. We manned our newly designed booth and distributed seed packets and tree saplings to excited participants. We used this opportunity to sell selected books and sign up new members.

Our speakers' bureau this winter signed up Jan Newton on native plants in an Elementary school courtyard, Janet Pawlukiewicz on the Go Native-Grow Native campaign, and Dr. John Hayden on lichens. Coming up will be presentations on saving the American Chestnut and native orchids. Our participation in invasive removals events, guided walks, shoreline clean-ups, sponsorship of students for Nature Camp, monthly bag lunch meetings with interesting speakers will continue. Look for us in the newspapers!

Who said that this winter was dull?

Ted Munns

Presenting The Flora of Virginia to the Messick Family



Ann Messick's Family

Photos: Carol Hammer Carol Ham



Carol Hammer, Dennie Messick, Nancy Garvey

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 NATURE CAMP RECIPIENTS!!

Deshay Smith Ronya Neal

Save the Date! Saturday, September 7, 2013 9:00 to Noon

Annual Native Plant Sale

Wicomico Parish Church, Wicomico, VA

Education and Outreach Calendar

February thru November	Ongoing planning for the collaboration between the Native Plant Society and the Boys & Girls Club to assist the club members with learning about and planting native plants.	
April 26, Friday	Develop plans and install Native plant borders around Flight Cage at Wild Bunch Rehabilitation Site in Warsaw. 10:00am - 2:00pm. Lancaster Library Kilmarnock Information Table. Contacts: Lindsey Gardner (435 1729), Nancy Garvey, and Paula Boundy. Book Sale - need to bring our own tables.	
May 25, Saturday	9:00am - 3:00pm. St. Stephens Strawberry Festival. St. Stephens's Episcopal Church Grounds, Heathsville, VA	
June 11, Tuesday	10:00am - 2:00pm. <i>Northumberland Library - Heathsville Information Table.</i> Contacts: Alice Cooper (804-580-5051), Nancy Garvey, Ted Munns, and Jane Peterson. Master Naturalist meeting and program 1-4.	
July 16, Tuesday	10:00am - 2:00pm. Richmond Library - Warsaw Information Table. Contacts: Linda Taylor (804-333-6710) and Nancy Garvey. Preschool reading program at 11:00 - need children's activity.	
Aug. 9, Friday	10:00 am - 2:00pm. Westmorland Library - Montross Information Table. Contacts: Barbara Maines (804-493-3820), Nancy Garvey, and Darlene and Rhon Nelson.	
Sept. 7, Saturday	TBD. Edwardsville Fall Festival. Contacts: Nancy Garvey, Ted Munns, and Judy Lang	
Sept. 21, Saturday	9:00am - 2:00pm. <i>Kinsale Days</i> . Contacts: Lynn Norris (804-450-7651), John Krainock, and Rhon and Darlene Nelson. Can sell plants and items.	

Walks and Talks in the Northern Neck

Magnificent Trees of Virginia



Last fall, some members of the Northern Neck Native Plant Society took a drive south to Gloucester County to see some of the trees chronicled in the Nancy Ross Hugo/Jeff Kirwin Book "Magnificent Trees of Virginia". One of our scheduled stops was at Zion Poplars Church. This church was named for the ancient tulip poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera* that had been felled by a storm in the early nineteenth century. The felled tree developed seven limbs that reached skyward to form a grove where freed slaves came to worship. It was seen by the early congregants that the seven trunks were a sign from God that this site was to be their Holy place.

Text: Ted Munns / Photo: Carol Hammer

As one walks on the grounds of Zion Poplars Church the blessings of religious freedom can be felt. There under the once far reaching arms of a strange 7 poplars seeming to stem from one base,was a sanctuary for African Americans. In 1866 they met here to worship and later in 1897 built a church.

When we visited, a very gracious Deacon of the church gave us a tour and related some of the history of the building. The intricate pulpit area was built by a former slave, Frank Braxton, who could neither read or write. It has a balcony and beautiful curved benches - cozy warm feeling.

Another interesting story: A white philanthropist, Edwin Joseph, used to ride by on his bike each day and say "I would like to be buried in that Cemetery." He donated \$100,000 to the church. His stone reads December 1, 2005. He is the only white person to be interred in the cemetery.



Text: Hilda Wilson Photo: Charlie Wilson

Viewing Native Blooming Wildflowers in Winter

Understory Jackie Bailey Labovitz's Collection



Cypripedium calculus Yellow Lady's Slipper

On a cold sunny day in February, Hilda, Charlie Wilson and I drove to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond to not only hear Jackie Bailey Labovitz, an artist photographer give a talk on her artistic background and how she photographed the plants in her collection titled, *Understory*, but also to view her stunning work.

The premise of her body of work was to photograph a number of spring ephemerals which Thomas Jefferson mentioned in his writings, all natives to Virginia. Over a period of many years she photographed blooming wildflowers along with their leaves. Her photos include the trout lily, trillium. spring beauty, yellow lady's slipper, pink lady's slipper, bluebells, and many more. Her prints are all on canvas which one can appreciate if seen in person. Her viewpoint is from the ground level rather than from above and she manages with her 300 mm lens to get a sharp view of most of the plant with a nice background of green in most instances. Her photos look like paintings to many.

As we entered the building where the lecture was to be, her large colorful canvases greeted us along the walls. I previously viewed her photos online and was impressed immediately; however, seeing them printed on large canvases made me appreciate her photographic skill even more.

Jackie's lecture explained about her interest as a child in insects and collecting them. She became an artist and curator as an adult and it wasn't until 2003 that she took up photography with her first digital camera. She started out photographing in her own backyard and only ventured an hour from her house to get her Understory collection.



Cypripedium acaule, Pink Lady's Slipper



Galearis spectabilis, showy orchis

Her talk was very informative from several standpoints. She showed us what equipment she took into the field to do her photography; a make up brush to dust off dirt from the plants she wanted to photograph, clips to hold back plant material that would normally interfere with focusing on the particular flower she wanted to capture, and protective clothing allowing her to lay in the ground for a long time waiting for the sun to hit the plant at just the right spot. She had a full bag of tricks, most of which she improvised and were not costly.

She uses a 300 mm Tamron lens and a Cannon digital SLR camera, but no tripod. As most of her photos are from ground level, she is able to stabilize the camera on the ground. Jackie is a dynamic speaker and held our attention to the end. She shared so much information and made us feel like one of her family.

If you get the chance, please visit her exhibit (information below), or her studio sometime. You won't regret it if you love plants and looking at perfect photos of them. Her exhibit of Understory photographs will be at the U.S. Botanical Garden through October 14, 2013.

Additional References:

www.understory.us www.understory.us/pix; http://www.usbg.gov/exhibits; http://www.tamron-usa.com/enews/archives/apr211_labovitz.asp

The Skunk is Out at Chilton Woods



The Northern Neck Native Plant Society scheduled, but cancelled due to inclement weather, a field outing on February 14 at Chilton Woods State Forest in Lancaster County to locate and study the unusually fascinating skunk cabbage plant [Symplocarpus foetidus]. A member of the Araceae, also known as the arum family, these are plants in which flowers are borne on a type of inflorescence called a spadix. The spadix is usually accompanied by, and sometimes partially enclosed in, a spathe or leaf-like bract. The color is purplish when you get down to examine it.

Skunk cabbage is an obligate wetland plant. It grows in the muck soils of wet meadows and swampy woods and blooms in winter (commonly in January), a phenomenon permitted, in part, by the fact that the plant is thermogenic (generates significant metabolic heat), a rare phenomenon in plant biology. Skunk cabbage gets its common name from the odor of crushed leaves that appear later in the spring.



Text: Paula Boundy/Photos: Earline Walker

Text: Carol Hammer

Photos: Jackie Bailey Labovitz Labovitz

Project BudBurst - Belle Isle



A group of 12 curious nature lovers gathered at Belle Isle State Park on the almost full moon date of March 28th at 4pm to learn about Project BudBurst, [http://budburst.org/]. Field Outings Chair, Paula Boundy presented several specimens to the group for examination of their bud stage. She noted that those that were in partial to full flower bloom are non-native landscape choices due to their early flowers and that the only native plant in bloom is the red maple, *Acer rubrum*.

Charlene Talcott, the leader of the afternoon's walk, discussed the question of when or what actually defines 'bud burst'. Basically it is when the winter scales that protect the flower, leaf or apical bud break open so that new growth can occur. There is a study of the timing of these botanical and

biological changes known as phenology - literally "the science of appearance." How the plants know it's safe to burst into growth is a complex interaction of daylight hours, temperature and moisture. Similar stimuli factor into the migration of birds and certain butterflies and the availability of their food: sap, flower pollen or nectar, foliage for caterpillars and insects.

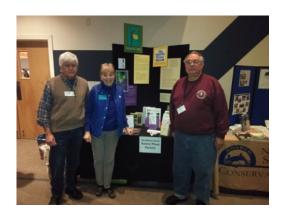
Paula then encouraged participation in Project Budburst, a nationwide citizen science opportunity. By visiting the website http://budburst.org/ you can register and choose one or more plants to observe and report on. There are 208 species of interest and many of the top ten listed for special attention - of scientific interest - grow on the Northern Neck including these native species: Red columbine, Aquilegia canadensis; Red maple, Acer rubrum; Mayapple, Podophyllum peltatum; Chokecherry, Prunus virginiana; Southern magnolia, Magnolia grandiflora, and Red osier dogwood, Cornus sericea. A quote from the website, "you can make an important contribution to a better understanding of changing climates. Project BudBurst is a network of people across the United States who monitor plants as the seasons change and submit ecological data based on the timing of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of plants. If you would like to make a meaningful contribution to understanding environmental change, join our rapidly growing community today! We are looking forward to learning more about the stories your plants can tell."

After the "classroom" session, the group visited some sites at the Park. Many interesting buds and bud bursts were discovered, one of which was most interesting. Along the creek near the boat launch are *Viburnum sp.*, possibly *V. prunifolium* with flower bud bursts that look like miniature - 1/4 - 3/8 " - pale green cauliflowers with scales like open prayerful hands and lots of them, especially where the deer had not browsed them. These buds will grow into fairly large white flower clusters in April-May, followed by yellow berries turning pink then blue-black in the fall. The colorful berries compliment the reddish fall color and are popular with the birds.

To wrap up the event, a delicious dinner was shared at Lancaster Tavern with all departing with full stomachs to enjoy the almost full moon in all its spring glory.

Text: Paula Boundy/Photo: Carol Hammer

Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar March 23, 2013



Jeff Wainscott, Nancy Garvey & Ted Munns

Photo: Carol Hammer

Save the Dates! Hickory Hollow Ellis Squires, Leader

Saturday April 20, 2013 Spring Ephemerals

Our annual visit, this year to the natural area preserve outside of Lancaster Courthouse to see what is popping up!

ALSO, visit the chestnut tree if time allows.

Saturday May 25, 2013 Disjunct Species

Unique to the Northern Neck, the Kentucky Yellow Lady's Slipper is a mystery in this location. Hickory Hollow's Cabin Swamp Trail has several disjunct species for us to learn from.

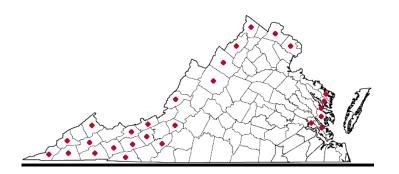
Mountain-Coastal Plain Disjuncts: Why are they interesting?

Disjunct species are plants that have their primary range in one location, and a secondary location separated by a large gap, sometimes hundreds of miles. Mountain-Coastal Plains Disjuncts are plants which are found in the coastal plain of the Northern Neck and are also found within the Valley and Blue Ridge regions, but which are absent or rare in the in areas between, known as the Piedmont. A number of these plants can be found in calcium-rich soil, especially in ravines which cut layers of soil containing fossilized shells which are characteristic of a soil layer known as the Yorktown Formation. The calcium carbonate that leaches from the fossil shells makes the soils in the ravines more alkaline than the acidic soils you normally find in the area. It is not known why these plants are restricted to calcium rich ravines in the Coastal Plain, but it is thought that they were better adapted and could out- compete the more southerly intruders in these pockets of alkaline soils.

The unique geology of Hickory Hollow favors a number of Mountain-Coastal Plain disjuncts. Some species as Marsh Marigold, *Caltha palustris*, False Hellebore, *Veratrum viride* and the Kentucky Yellow Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium kentuckiense* are found together. Different associations may be explained on the basis of the sunlight exposure or the soil moisture levels available at a given site. The Kentucky Yellow Lady's Slippers are located above water table either on hummocks or on well-drained flood plains. In wetter areas close by, the False Hellebore, *Veratrum viride* is found, and in places with open sun this species occurred in great abundance. The Marsh Marigold, *Caltha palustris*, grows within the wettest areas of the swamp and thrives best under shaded conditions. All these areas contain soils which may have leached from the calcium rich layer cut by the ravines.

Other plants in Hickory Hollow are Wild Sarsaparilla, *Aralia nudicaulis*, which is also far removed from locations further west in Virginia. Much more common in the mountains, the Alternate Leaved Dogwood, *Cornus alterifolia* is found in boulder field forests, seepage swamp hummocks, clearings and borders. Here, it is found on low nutrient soil, but is occasionally encountered near the calcium-rich Yorktown Formation. The Dog Violet, *Viola labradorica* can be found in a ravine near the boardwalk. Its species name

labradorica and its common name Alpine Violet indicates a range much farther north.



Map of the distribution of American Dog Violet Viola labradorica in Virginia showing disjunct distribution. From the Digital Atlas of Virginia www.vaplantatlas.org

Further research is needed to compare the soils where these species occur, both here in the Coastal Plain and as well as localities in the mountains. In addition to an assessment of ordinary nutrient levels, these soils should be checked for an abundance of other trace minerals that might be present in all soils which may help explain why these species occur where they do. Recent studies indicate there may be 90 plants that fit this description.

A display garden of ravine plants has been started in the Williamsburg Botanical Garden in Freedom Park, containing a selection of mountain disjunct plant species that can be found growing locally.

Some Mountain Coastal Plain Disjuncts in the Northern Neck

Actaea pachypoda Doll's Eyes
Adiantum pedatum Maidenhair Fern
Aralia nudicaulis Wild Sarsaparilla
Asarum canadense Canadian Ginger
Homalosorus pycnocarpon Glade Fern
Caltha palustris Marsh Marigold
Cornus alternifolia Alternate-Leaf Dogwood
Cypripedium kentuckiense Kentucky Yellow Lady's Slipper
Hexalectris spicata Spiked Crested Coralroot
Magnolia tripetala Umbrella Magnolia
Stewartia ovata Mountain Camellia
Veratrum virginicum Virginia Bunchflower
Veratrum viride False Hellebore
Viola labradorica Dog or Alpine Violet

Text and Photos: Ellis Squires



Veratrum viride False Hellebore



Veratrum virginicum Virginia Bunchflower



Asarum canadense Canadian Ginger

Did You Know?

Go Native-Grow Native



http://plants.usda.gov/java

Lupinus perennis, Sundial lupine was selected by the Northern Neck Native Plant Society's new campaign "Go Native, Grow Native" as the native plant of the month for January. A short article was published in the local newspaper, Rappahannock Record, on the 31st of January. This is an exciting development that will increase the public exposure to native plants, their beauty and garden possibilities.

This lupine is indigenous to the eastern and piedmont sections of Virginia. You are probably familiar with a relative, Lupinus texensis, Texas bluebonnet. A member of the pea family, Sundial lupine is found on poor soil and improves it by fixing nitrogen. You may wonder, once the soil becomes fertile, does it die out? It is an adaptable perennial and propagation is most successful by seed assuring that colonies may develop or that spread is assured. Young plants can be purchased and or transplanted before the long tap root develops. When grown in favorable conditions: sunny, well-drained stony or sandy soil of average pH, lupines should freely self-seed to expand its impact.

Allan Armitage says that east coast gardeners suffer from lupine envy. I can identify. There are horticulture lupines of other colors than the native's blue purple; however, this sole color is so desirable in the native plant landscape, that envy and desirability is assured. Even the palmate leaves are a charming visual treat. No parts of the plant should be consumed by humans. The bees, butterflies and hummingbirds that use the flowers for nectar or the foliage as larval host will further enchant the gardener, as will birds attracted to the seeds.

I wish you success in curing your lupine envy. I welcome your feedback: paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net

Text by Paula Boundy

/profile?symbol=LUPE3: Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States. Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons. New York. Vol. 2: 348. Courtesv of Kentucky Native Society.

source.

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Other Board Members

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Members at LargeJeff Wainscott	bramwood@kaballero.com
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.

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 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

Apr. 18, Thursday	Noon. The Chestnut Story, Cathy Mayes. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).	
Apr. 20, Saturday	10:00 am - Noon. <i>Spring Ephemerals at Hickory Hollow.</i> Ellis Squires (leader), Lancaster Courthouse.	
Apr. 27, Saturday	9:00 am. John Clayton Chapter Native Plant Sale. Join a car/van pool to Williamsburg to purchase plants for your Spring/Summer garden. E-mail Paula.Boundy@va.metrocast.net for arrangements.	
May 4, Saturday	10:00am - Noon or 2:00pm - 4:00pm. <i>Invasives Removal Day.</i> Leaders TBD. Belle Isle State Park/Chilton Woods. Bring bag lunch. Chose one or both sessions.	
May 11, Saturday	10:00 am - Noon. <i>Old Man's Beard at Baylor Park Nature Trail.</i> Kilmarnock. Paula Boundy (leader).	
May 16, Thursday	Noon. <i>Ecology of Wild Orchids</i> , David Wigham. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).	
May 25, Saturday	10:00 am - Noon. <i>Disjunct Species</i> . Ellis Squires, (leader), Hickory Hollow's Cabin Swamp Trail.	
Sept. 7, Saturday	9:00 am - Noon. Native Plant Sale. Wicomico Parish Church.	

Expect More!

Additional outings will be announced to our members via email.

All walks are weather permitting. If any doubt, call Paula Boundy at 804-436-4944

Driving directions will be emailed to members in the week before each outing.

To learn more, contact: Ted Munns, 453-3621 or tedmunns@kaballero.com

Check Out the Launching of Our New Chapter Website at:

http://www.nnnps.org

Welcome to Our Newest Members

"Muffin" Fitzpatrick
Janet Hamilton
Linda Hilderrand
Anita Lee

Newsletter: three issues annually.
Send ideas, articles, photos, etc.,
by July 15th to
bayfishers3@aol.com

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Note expiration date if received by mail.

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