



Shenandoah Chapter
Shenandoah Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
March, 2008

Mission Statement:

We are a conservation organization dedicated to conserve Virginia's native plants and their ecosystems through education, advocacy and activities that promote appreciation, stewardship and appropriate use.

Next Meeting: March 13, 7:30

Our Speaker: Jan Sievers Mahon, the new Director of the JMU Arboretum will introduce herself and discuss plans for the Arboretum.

Place: Plecker 128 Blue Ridge Community College

Calendar:

- April 26-27 Field Sketching with Lara Call Gastinger. See details in the February 2008 newsletter
- April 26, Riverfest in Waynesboro and location for our **annual plant sale**. Please contact Anneli Tattersall for more info or to help 540-248-0932, annelitatt@yahoo.com
- May 2-4 Webster County Nature Tour, Webster County W Va. \$90 for an incredible weekend exploring Elk Mountain during peak wild flower time. Price includes 5 meals, dormitory accommodations, tours, and evening entertainment. The largest Sycamore in the US is in the area. For more info contact Jay Shaner 540-886-5763 Check out the website http://www.proseandphotos.com/wv_spring_in_the_mountain_park.htm
- May 3, Staunton Farmers Market 8-Noon for the second weekend of the plant sale. Contact Anneli above
- May 4 Shale barrens outing to W. Va details in April newsletter.
- May 8 5:30-dark Shenandoah Chapter annual Social at Hone Quarry, George Washington National Forest
- May 17 11-3 Trillium of Reddish Knob. State VNPS Trip. Leader Lib Kyger. Help Help Help! Assistant Leaders desperately needed. Contact Lib Kyger 540-828-6252

Announcements:

Field Sketching with Lara Call Gastinger

Saturday, April 26 – Sunday, April, 27

Join botanical artist Lara Call Gastinger and Flower Camp Director Nancy Ross Hugo for two days of observing, sketching, and painting wildflowers, ferns, and trees at Flower Camp, near Howardsville, Virginia. The widely acclaimed illustrator of the *Flora of Virginia*, Lara will help you observe plants more carefully, render them more accurately, and record them more expressively. Participants will be focusing on phenomena unique to the fourth week of April and practicing techniques that help turn even a quick sketch into a valuable botanical record. Using mixed media, even non-artists can learn to create pages illustrating “the story of a day outdoors” at this workshop, and teachers will learn new ways to approach field studies. Rendering trees will be a new wrinkle for artists who have studied with Lara before.

Tuition of \$325 includes three meals (lunch Saturday through brunch Sunday), one night's lodging, instruction, and most materials. Participants wishing to arrive Friday night may do so for an additional \$50, which includes light breakfast and a Friday evening sneak preview of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, Nancy's forthcoming book.

Ten percent of each tuition will be donated to the Flora of Virginia Project.

Wildflowers of the Shenandoah Valley

Identify the first wildflowers of spring. Learn many interesting facts such as why Skunk Cabbage melts snow and what wildflower the Indians used as a salt substitute. From hepatica to violets, learn about the spring beauty all around us on the beautiful rocky slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains. All classes, except the first one, will be hands-on in the field. 62224, \$50

Three Wednesdays, April 23-May 7, 6-8 pm

BRCC Weyers Cave Plecker Center P126C

Instructor: Diane Holsinger

Chapter Officers

President	vacant		
Vice President	Michael Seth	540-438-1301	sethmj@jmu.edu
Treasurer	Chuck Auckerman	540- 828-2065	ChuckAuckerman@aol.com
Hospitality	Lib Kyger	540-828-6252	kyger@Bridgewater.edu
Newsletter/ Website	Elaine Smith	540-298-0773	smithes6@juno.com
Membership	Bea Woody	540-289-6106	beawoody@hotmail.com
Conservation/ Education	Chris Bowlen	540-289-6801	bowlenchris@comcast.net

State Board Meeting, March 1, 2008, attended by Elaine Smith

- ❖ Annual Meeting – September 12-14. Note change of date
- ❖ March Orchid workshop – filled to overflowing.
- ❖ Flora of Virginia is progressing
- ❖ New nursery list on state website by mid-April.
- ❖ Membership brochure will be reprinted this summer.
- ❖ State Field Trips: May 31 – June 7 Tall Grass Prairie, Kansas
 - May 17 – Reddish Knob
 - June 28 (?) Blackwater Ecological Preserve
 - October – Cypress Bridge Forest
- ❖ *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, by Nancy Ross Hugo, will be published within the next year
- ❖ Invasive plant Wavy leaf Basketgrass found in Maryland. Information:
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass.asp

WANTED: Newsletter articles.

Contact Elaine Smith if you want to include anything in YOUR newsletter.

Anything is welcome, even just a few lines!