



*Shenandoah Chapter*  
*Virginia Native Plant Society*  
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**April 2009**

**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:** April 9. We will meet at Bald Rock Road at 6:30 for our annual spring wildflower walk. For further information or directions, contact Chris Bowlen 540-289-6801, [chris.bowlen@gmail.com](mailto:chris.bowlen@gmail.com)

**Calendar 2009**

**Apr 11** –Black's Run Clean-up Harrisonburg. Chapter needs help staffing an information table and helping identify natives, non-natives and invasives in various parks in downtown Harrisonburg.

**Apr 18-** Earth Day in Staunton-Shenandoah Chapter is handing out information and answering questions about native plants from 9-12 Saturday morning. We have one volunteer who can maybe help. Please consider being part of this growing event in downtown Staunton

**Apr 25-** George Washington National Forest 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Trash Day contact Mark Healey at [mahealey@fs.fed.us](mailto:mahealey@fs.fed.us) or call (540)-432-8247.

**Apr 26-** 8 mile moderate hike with Wild VA. We will be hiking about 4 miles down along the headwaters of the North River starting at an elevation of about 3,800 feet, then hopefully to the Little River confluence. The elevation there is 3,000 feet. We'll then hike back. The spring thaw will likely present some nice interactions with the North River and possible sightings of rare mountain flowers and other flora. Leader Eric Gilchrest Eric Gilchrist - email [ericg@ntelos.net](mailto:ericg@ntelos.net) or phone (434) 293-8039. Contact Eric if you are planning on attending. You may also contact Eric with any questions, comments, for directions

**May 1-3** Wildflower Weekend Webster County WV Camp Ceaser Visit Webster County WV website or contact Jay Shaner 540-886-5763 for additional information

**May 9-10** Shenandoah National Park Wildflower Weekend - complete schedule on park website [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen)

**May 14-**Shenandoah Chapter Social Hone Quarry Picnic Shelter-details in May newsletter

**May 15-17-26<sup>th</sup>** Annual Spring Wildflower Symposium at Wintergreen Resort

**July 11** - Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, Monogehela National Forest, WV. Leader Jay Shaner. A visit toCranberry Glades is a great opportunity to see many acidic loving plants some at the extreme southern end of their range. Several orchids might be in bloom. Meet in Buffalo Gap 8AM SHARP! ¾ mile past the intersection of RT42 and 688 at a small white church on the right. Bring water, lunch and hiking boots.

Approximately 2.5 hour drive one way with a 4-5 hour outing at several locations in Cranberry Glades. To carpool from Staunton area contact Jay Shaner 540-886-5763; from Harrisonburg area contact Chris Bowlen 540-289-6801.

### **Events at State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy**

Saturday, April 25, 1 - 5 pm “**Arbor Day Celebration**” State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm. Bring the family and enjoy an afternoon of workshops, tours, displays and children's activities-all about trees! (1-3 PM) The help plant native trees (3-5PM) Free. For more information check the web site or call 540-837-1758 ext 0

Saturday, May 2, 9 am - Noon “**Invasive Plant Removal Day**” at Blandy, sponsored by VA Master Naturalists and Virginia Native Plant Society. To participate call Kim @540-837-1758 ext. 234

Sat-Sun, May 9-10, 9 – 4:30 pm, “**Garden Fair 2009**” at Blandy. Native plant vendors, information, fine items for home and garden, children’s activities, food. For more information check the web site or call 540-837-1758 ext 0

### **Do you have Extra native plants in your garden that you don't know what to do with?**

Because our Chapter is not having a native plant sale this year, you might have some extra plants that need a home. You have several options. Our Community Place in Harrisonburg is having a plant sale April 18 starting at 10 AM and is looking for donations to fund their numerous worthy causes. Sandy Greene is always looking for native plants to help re-populate Marel Creek. Bring your donations for Marel Creek to the May 14th Social at Hone Quarry.

### **Coke versus Bugs**

Many farmers in India have been using Coca-Cola as a pesticide for at least 5 years. Britain's *Guardian* reported that Gotu Laxmaiah, a farmer from Andra Pradesh is delighted with his cola spray. “ I observed that the pests began to die after the soft drink was sprayed on my cotton,” he said. He and others say their cola spray is invaluable because it does not need to be diluted, is many times cheaper than conventional pesticide and is safer to handle by a country mile. ACRES USA April 2009

### **What is in Bloom-April**

*Epigaea repens*, Trailing arbutus, is a prostrate evergreen shrub with creeping stems. Leaves alternate, oval to elliptic, coriaceous, petiolate. Flowers pistillate or bisexual; corollas white to pink with 5 spreading or recurving lobes. Stamens 10, filaments slender, with a tuft of hair near the middle. Capsule 5-locular, multiseeded. Blooms Feb-June. Mountains, Piedmont and Coastal. Dry rocky woods Labrador to Iowa, south to Florida and Mississippi. The flowers are fragrant. The roots have a micorrhizal association and the plants are difficult to transplant: the seeds are dispersed by ants. Picking has reduced its abundance. From Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southeast by Leonard E. Foote & Samuel B. Jones

Trailing arbutus is very common in our area along trails in both Shenandoah National Park and the GW National Forest. A very accessible place to see it in bloom is along Madison Run fire road east of Grottoes.

