



*Shenandoah Chapter*  
*Shenandoah Chapter*  
*Virginia Native Plant Society*  
*May, 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: May 14 Annual May Social AT Picnic Shelter in Hone Quarry.** In spite of a very rainy evening, the few of us who attended last year's social agreed it was a great place for this social so we will try it again this year. The shelter is very accommodating even in the rain.

**TIME:** 5 PM for a short hike 6:30 for dinner

**BRING:** a dish to share, your own plate, mug and utensils to cut down on trash. A potted native plant contribution for the Marl Creek Education Trail.

**PROVIDED:** Drinks (lemonade, iced tea and water) paper plates, utensils, cups and napkins will be available

**Directions to Hone Quarry:**

From Northbound I-81:

Take exit 240 for VA-682/VA 257 (0.2 mi). Turn left onto VA-257 West (3.4 mi) to Bridgewater. Turn right at North Main Street/VA-257/VA-42 (0.4 mi). Turn left at North River Rd. (0.2 mi). Turn right at West Dry River Rd. (1.6 mi). Turn left at Ottobine Rd/VA-257 proceed 4.2 mi to stop sign. See below.

South from Harrisonburg:

Take U.S. 42 South from Harrisonburg for approximately three miles to the intersection with State Route (S.R.) 257 in Dayton. Turn right off U.S. 42 onto S.R. 257 (west) and proceed until you reach a stop sign. See below.

From North and South to Hone Quarry:

At the stop sign, Turn left at Briery Branch Rd/VA-257 (2.8 mi). Turn right to stay on Briery Branch Rd./VA-257 (2.2 mi). Turn right at Hone Quarry Rd. FR62 travel about 1.7 mi to the picnic area.

**Calendar 2009**

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

**May 9-10, 9 – 4:30 pm**, “Garden Fair 2009” at Blandly State Arboretum. 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

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

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

**May 30** JMU EJC Arboretum Herb and Garden festival 9-3 in the Festival parking lot.

**July 11** - Cranberry Glades Botanical Area, Monogehela National Forest, WV. Leader Jay Shaner. A visit to Cranberry 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.

### **Shenandoah Chapter Outreach**

To support our mission for education, advocacy and activities that promote appreciation, stewardship and appropriate use of native plants, members of our Chapter have been involved with several projects. Here is a summary of what we have done since the beginning of 2009.

A presentation on biodiversity and how native plants are an integral part of an ecosystem was given in February to Augusta County Envirothon students. The students were learning about natural systems such as geology, soils, forestry and wildlife biology in order to design a site management plan for a Nature Conservancy area in southwestern Virginia. Envirothon is a national scholastic competition for high school students interested in the environment.

The Chapter was asked by Sandy Greene to contribute information and photos for a sign about native plants displayed at the Marl Creek Education Trail at McCormack's Farm. Photos illustrating native plants found at the site were provided along with a brief statement about each one. The sign will hopefully be in place this fall.

Our Chapter was contacted to support Blacks' Run Cleanup in Harrisonburg by helping work teams identify and remove invasive plants from three areas along Black's Run. The day did not go quite as planned as no work teams were allocated to the project. However, the interest is there, the need certainly is there and hopefully, next year will be more effective. Many people stopped at our information table.

Earth Day in Staunton provided another opportunity for our Chapter to give out information and speak to people about native plants. The event was well attended and resulted in at least two new members!

A slide show about native plants was presented to the Hill and Valley Garden Club of Luray. The program was very well received. They would like to see a more "native plants in the garden" oriented presentation at some future time. Any one interested in putting a slide/digital photo program together?

Invasive plants were removed from two locations: Deep Run Ponds Natural Heritage site in Rockingham County and Loft Mountain in Shenandoah National Park. At Deep Run Ponds, we started picking up trash along the road in 2002 and pulling garlic mustard in 2005. We no longer pick up the trash since the road was adopted by a local family; the annual garlic mustard removal is showing definite positive results in the two areas we are concentrating on. The Loft Mountain

project just started this April. There will be several more workdays scheduled this year for sensitive areas in the Park including the wavy leaved basket grass site in Swift Run Gap.

The George Washington National Forest Road Surveys for native and invasive plants continue through the efforts of a group of very dedicated botanists and data entry people. Since 2005, and sporadically before that, Forest Service roads have been monitored to identify and locate native species for protection from herbicide spraying. A coordinated effort is made to survey all the roads identified by the Forest Service as intended to be sprayed in their annual roadside maintenance program. Annual meetings with the Forest Service continue to help define and refine this project.

Thanks to all who share their time and talents in so many ways to make this Chapter a dynamic and productive group. If you would like to become more involved or initiate some new directions for our Chapter we invite you to do so. Please contact any board member.

There will be a Chapter Native Plant Sale Spring 2010  
Next Newsletter: September 2009