

A publication of the VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Conserving wild flowers and wild places

www.vnps.org



Are hawkmoths the mysterious pollinators of the Jamestown lily?

“Hawkmoth flowers are easy to predict but difficult to document,” noted botanist Verne Grant in his comprehensive review of hawkmoth pollination systems in North America (*Botanical Gazette* 144: 439-449. 1983). Grant included Jamestown (atamasco) lilies (among other zephyr lily species) as examples of plants that are *probably* hawkmoth-pollinated, but for which the actual pollination mechanism remains undocumented.

The white flowers of atamasco lily are visible in the dim light of evening or on moon-lit nights, the times when hawkmoths are active; the nectar is produced in a floral tube, available to hawkmoths because of their long-coiled mouthparts, but not available to most other floral

visitors; and the anthers and stigmas project above the floral tube in a position where a hovering hawkmoth, intent of sipping nectar, could easily pick up or deposit pollen grains.

So, it is a pretty good bet that Jamestown lilies are pollinated by hawkmoths. Many hawkmoths are active in the dim light of evening; indeed, some species are active only at night. Thus, answering the simplest question, whether or not hawkmoths actually visit atamasco flowers, is difficult. Almost a quarter century after Grant’s prediction, the pollinator of atamasco lily remains unknown. Here is a case where a simple photograph of a hawkmoth

(See Hawkmoths page 8)

Where the water meets the land

The John Clayton Chapter will be co-hosting the 2007 VNPS Annual Meeting/Conference this year with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Chapter Annual Meeting Coordinator Leslie Herman and the committee have been busy planning an exciting week-end of lectures, workshops, fieldtrips, and tours based on the theme “Where the Water Meets the Land.” The conference, to be held at VIMS in the city of Gloucester Point, will begin on

**VNPS
Annual Meeting
Sept. 14-16**

Friday, September 14 at 1 p.m. and will end on Sunday, September 16.

Speakers and fieldtrips are scheduled for Friday afternoon, including a kayak trip down the Dragon Run led by Teta Kain, a talk and walk at Jamestown Island, a presentation by Wesley Greene, Garden Historian with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and some wonderful presentations offered by VIMS. The annual meeting will

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From the president

New Year holds promise for the past, present, and future

Dear members,

I'm hoping all of you are off to a good 2007. Late New Year's wishes - I'm still practicing saying and writing 2007, and I'm still stunned that it is past Y2K, let alone seven years past. This issue features our new Wildflower of the Year, the Jamestown or atamasco lily. Your brochure is enclosed, and there is an interesting companion article in this issue. Our chapter's winter walk was terrific, and it is neat that there is so much to see outdoors in any season. And always there is something new. This year we concentrated on the details of winter stems of native grasses, and learning how to tell them apart, as well as visiting old favorites like seed box pods and the red bunches of smooth sumac seeds.

The Annual Workshop is coming up on March 3 at the University of Richmond, and your brochure, I hope, has arrived. In this commemorative year, we are focusing on the history of Virginia plant explorations

and vegetation changes from 1607 to 2007. I hope you will join us there. We are working on some in-state field trips this spring to complement the theme. Some information is available in this issue, but be sure and contact us if you want to know more.

We are also trying to renew our involvement with the Kew Seeds of Success Program. We are working with our new partners at the North Carolina Botanical Garden and hope that some of you will want to attend our training session with Andy Walker in March, and help us locate suitable plant populations for our work.

By the time you read this, I imagine many chapters will have lots of spring activities planned. Enjoy the anticipation during gray winter days. If you are bored waiting for a bloom, write a letter. Our winter conservation article can provide ideas, and you can let our officials know what you would like to see happen that will conserve your favorite plant.

Sally Anderson, VNPS President

• Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

take place at 6 p.m. followed by keynote speaker Gene Silberhorn, author of *Wetland Plants of Virginia and Common Plants of the Mid-Atlantic Coast, A Field Guide*. Saturday is filled with speakers, including Carol Heiser who is the Habitat Education Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and botanist Dr. Donna Ware, formerly of the College of William and Mary Herbarium. Some of Saturday's fieldtrips include another trip down the Dragon, tours to the VIMS Teaching Marsh and Maritime Forest, as well as a trip to the sinkhole ponds at Grafton Ponds Natural Area Preserve led by Rebecca Wilson who is the Chesapeake Bay Region Steward for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Saturday evening will be celebrated with a party and buffet in Yorktown. Tours to Sassafras Farm, a nursery in Hayes, take place on Saturday and Sunday. The conference will close on Sunday with the board meeting in the morning, and more great fieldtrips, some lasting half a day or longer. Look for more information in subsequent newsletters and on the John Clayton website (www.claytonvnps.org).

Seeds of Success

VNPS training, collecting to help global program

Last August John Clayton Chapter president Helen Hamilton, President Sally Anderson, and South Hampton Roads Chapter member Linda Wilcox attended a training session at Mt. Cuba Center near Wilmington, Delaware, for the Seeds of Success (SOS) Program under the Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP), a global conservation initiative conceived, developed, and managed by the Seed Conservation Department at the Royal Botanic Gardens, in Kew, England. This is a renewed effort for a project that began in 2004, when VNPS held a training session with leaders from Kew Gardens. *Mertensia virginica*, *Baccharis hamillifolia*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, *Elephantopus virginiana* and *Vernonia noveboracensis* were among the seeds collected and shipped.

SOS is the U.S. conservation and native plant seed collecting program. The program brings together a number of partners working in different parts of the country under the umbrella of the Plant Conservation Alliance. The North Carolina Botanical Garden (NCBG) and New England Wild Flower Society are now full partners with Kew Botanical Gardens.

Since the 2004 training, seeds have been collected following a strict protocol for locating, obtaining land managers' permission, assessing viability of the seed, recording data, collecting herbarium specimens and seed and then quickly processing and shipping the seed to England. Now, we will be sending our collections to NCBG for final processing before delivery to Kew Gardens. For specifics about the project go to: www.nps.gov/plants/sos. Currently 29 percent of U.S. flora is threatened, and native plant communities are at continued risk. High quality seed samples are urgently needed for restoration purposes, a key focus for the SOS Program. A list of 63 species has been assigned to VNPS to collect.

On February 8 the John Clayton Chapter hosted a Seeds of Success Workshop at the York County Library in order to introduce John Clayton members and visitors to the project and explain seed collecting methods. The workshop was led by chapter president Helen Hamilton and the SOS National Collections Data Manager, Mary Byrne, who brought training materials from the Bureau of Land Management office in Washington, D.C.

(See SOS, page 8)



Cypress Bridge visit
On New Year's Eve, a group from the South Hampton Roads Chapter took a field trip to see the big trees that were featured in the last Bulletin. A total of 52 people in 25 to 30 canoes and kayaks paddled five miles to visit the old growth forest at Cypress Bridge. Due to late summer and fall rains the water levels were much higher than in the photos featured in the previous newsletter.

Historian to speak at VNPS Workshop

Warren R. Hofstra, Stewart Bell Professor of History at Shenandoah University, Winchester, will speak at the VNPS Annual Workshop on March 3. His talk is "A Strange New Land: Settlement and Environment in the Shenandoah Valley." The workshop will take place at the University of Richmond's Gottwald Center for the Sciences.

In anticipation of his talk, I read Dr. Hofstra's 2004 book, *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*. The book is part of a series called *Creating the North American Landscape*, a group of books that considers human history in the context of the natural environment. This blending of history and ecology may have begun with William Cronon's *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England* from 1983, or perhaps that was just when I became aware of the trend.

Hofstra's book is a study of the settlement and development of Winchester and Frederick County, but his early chapters work at describing how conflicts among the various European states over their colonies in North America shaped the settlement of the Valley. The place of New Virginia in the settlement of Virginia follows. With the stage set, the history of the

northern Shenandoah Valley and some of the changes in the landscape that resulted are explained.

Although this is definitely a history book, not a plant or natural history book, descriptions of the land are abundant. Locations and ideas about settlement are well illustrated with maps, and the writing is meant for a general audience. In one section, a subsistence farming settlement's variety of resources is compared to both Native American settlement and bird habitat. Hofstra quotes many travelers' accounts in discussing the early landscape, and has attempted to use these and survey records to examine the reports of grasslands or meadows in the Shenandoah Valley. From references to early surveys and journals, to studies of forest cover and composition using trees mentioned in deed survey records (white oaks predominate), to the placement and shape of settlers' farms, there is quite a bit of information on the environment of the Valley. Awareness of our environment and how it impacts our lives has now become an integral part of the study of history.

(NOTE: The book is published by Johns Hopkins University Press, and is now available in hard cover or paperback. The paperback is reasonably priced and available at some bookstores and on the internet, or perhaps in your local library.)

Sally Anderson, VNPS President

Lobstein walks and talks

Marion Lobstein will be leading the following wildflower walks: Great Falls Park, Va. at 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the third Sundays during the late winter/spring months (March 18, April 15, and May 18); and a Balls Bluff walk April 15, 2:30-4:30 p.m. She will conduct Smithsonian Associates programs including: U.S. Botanic Garden on Feb. 8 and 10 and the U.S. National Arboretum April 22 and 27. (www.resident-associates.org/rap for details). Marion will be conducting several programs at Blandy Experimental Farm in March and April. Contact Marion Lobstein at 703-536-7150, mlobstein@earthlink.net or www.mblobstein.com for reservations.

The South Hampton Roads Chapter is sponsoring Marion's program "Dream Plants the Jamestown Settlers Found" at the Tidewater Flower and Garden Show February 17-18. She will discuss native plants that early settlers came in contact with at Jamestown in 1607. The chapter is contributing to the Flora of Virginia Project as her honorarium. Marion will give similar presentations at the Virginia Academy of Science meeting in May and at the Virginia Association of Science Teachers annual meeting in November.

Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region dvds are available from Marion for \$20 with proceeds donated to the flora project. Payment to Marion Lobstein, 1815 N. Roosevelt St., Arlington, VA 22205.

Crow's Nest Peninsula: A special place in peril

On the evening of November 16, 2006, Nancy Barker introduced the John Clayton Chapter to the urgent need to protect property in Stafford County important for its ecological value and historical significance. The Crow's Nest is a nearly 4,000-acre site on a peninsula in Stafford County, bounded by Accokeek Creek to the north, Potomac Creek to the south (just as they feed into the Potomac River), and by Brooke Road. Barker is the environmental manager for a consulting company in Williamsburg.

The ecological value of Crow's Nest was richly illustrated by Barker with exquisite images of tidal wetlands, woodlands, native plants, and wildlife. According to the Save the Crow's Nest website (www.savecrowsnest.org), over 1,300 acres of wetlands including 700 acres of freshwater tidal wetlands are found on Potomac and Accokeek Creeks surrounding the Crow's Nest peninsula. These marshes account for 60 percent of all marshes remaining in Stafford County. Species such as American black ducks, mallards, wood duck, and blue-winged teal use the freshwater tidal marshes and wooded swamps for nesting, migration, and wintering habitat. A large 70-acre great blue heron rookery along upper Potomac Creek supporting over 300 nesting pairs is currently protected at Crow's Nest. The

"Potomac Creek Heronry" owned by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust is one of the largest great blue heron rookeries in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. There are three nests of bald eagles, an extensive list of migratory and residential birds including the gray catbird and scarlet tanager, and the creek inhabitants include alewife, striped bass, American eel, American shad, and short nose sturgeon.

Gary Fleming, Virginia Division of Natural Heritage said, "Overall, Crow's Nest supports one of the finest—if not *the finest*—upland hardwood forests remaining in the Virginia Coastal Plain." The calcareous ravine forest habitat in the deep ravines of Crow's Nest peninsula is unique and includes the basic oak-hickory forest, which has been designated as *globally imperiled*. Tulip poplar, shagbark hickory, American beech and holly are among the species found in the mixed hardwood forest. Among the regionally or globally rare plants found at Crow's Nest are ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*), southern wild rice (*Zizania aquatica* L.), black snakeroot (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), showy orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*), and putty root orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*).

One wonders what could threaten this little jewel along a couple of quiet

creeks in a long obscure corner of Virginia, but then the map is enlarged and one sees how close this peninsula is to Fredericksburg to the southwest and Washington to the north. The property is currently owned by K&M Properties, which submitted plans in 2004 and 2006 to develop Crow's Nest—the most recent plan proposes 680 houses on approximately one-acre lots. There is other developed property nearby so this is not a pristine area. However, many interested parties including residents; county, state, and federal officials; and local and regional environmentalists are eager to preserve Crow's Nest. Their ideas and activities as well as those of the development interests are outlined in detail on the websites such as www.savecrowsnest.org and www.nvct.org/crowsnest. If you are sympathetic with their concerns for the quality of human life in Stafford County and the need for wild habitat, these organizations identify several ways to show your support.

Patricia Gray, John Clayton Chapter

Green Spring Gardens

Three items on the Green Spring Gardens (Alexandria) Winter Lecture Series calendar might be of special interest to VNPSers. For fees, registration, and other information, visit www.greenspring.org or call 703-642-5173. On Sunday, February 25, from 1:30-3 p.m., hear Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology and wildlife ecology, present "A Plea for Native Plants." He talks of the diminishing biodiversity as sprawl creeps into natural areas in the East and sends a plea for planting native plants to nourish local wildlife. On Sunday, March 4 from 1:30-4 p.m., Elizabeth Fortson Wells, professor of botany, will discuss "Early Folk Uses for Non-Native Plants In Northern Virginia." "An Intentional Garden" is the topic on Sunday, March 18, from 1:30-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens' former director, Don Humphrey, shares his latest garden design, a mixed border of tall perennials, a wildlife garden filled with fruit for the birds, a vegetable garden for the humans, a garden for the hummingbirds, a berm with shrubs and shade plants, and a patio.

Magazine features Flora Project story

The Flora of Virginia Project is featured in the February 2007 issue of *Virginia Living* with an illuminating article by Nancy Ross Hugo. (February 2007). Nancy writes of the path followed by Chris Ludwig to be co-author and editor of the new *Flora*. Lara Gastinger's illustrations are featured in the article along with information about her interesting background leading to being the primary artist to illustrate our 2011 *Virginia Flora*.

Johnny Townsend is also cited as he was recently named as co-author with Chris Ludwig and Alan Weakley for Virginia's own *Flora*. Nancy includes an anecdote about a layperson's attempt to identify a mystery plant observed at False Cape without a *Flora of Virginia*

newer than 1743, the year our only flora ever, authored by John Clayton, was published in Europe.

Nicky Staunton searched through descriptions of all of the floras for Northeast U. S., West Virginia, Maryland and even Gray's before turning to the *Flora of North Carolina* where *Bartonia verna* was identified. The mystery plant had not been seen in Virginia since the botanist Frederick Pursh observed it in the 1700s.

The Flora of Virginia Project Board is grateful to Nancy Ross Hugo for getting our story out to the 71,000 readers of *Virginia Living* and to Garland Pollard, editor, who chose to use Nancy's story of the current *Flora of Virginia* due to be published in 2011.

Know the conservation score of your representatives

By the time you read this, the state legislature will have met and, in all probability, concluded its 2007 session. In December 2006, some influential members of the legislature were pushing for a 30-day session – a short session that would not bode well for many conservation issues. Why? Because, in a shortened session there would be a tendency to address high profile issues like transportation and budget, while giving short shrift to vitally important conservation issues related to wetlands protection, land conservation, smart growth, global warming, forestry and energy, to name a few.

It is dangerous to try and predict what any elected body will do but, when the dust settles, and your senators and delegates have returned home from Richmond, it might be a good idea to look at what they have done and how they voted on conservation related issues. In other words, construct a scorecard so that when you have the opportunity to influence or inform others, you speak with knowledge of what your state delegate or senator has done (or not done) to further the well being of Virginia native plants. A scorecard will help you track their conservation votes in the last session and determine what they need to do to rectify things the next time around.

You will not see a bill introduced in the 2007 legislative session that deals specifically and primarily with conservation of our native plant species in Virginia. But, if you believe things in nature are interrelated — the reliance of one thing on another for mutual well-being, propagation and survival — you also recognize the importance, for example, of air quality, global warming, land conservation, and wetlands protection to the VNPS conservation mission. In the spring of 2007, here are some things to ask yourself about the 2007 legislative session:

1. Did your delegate and senator initiate or, at a minimum, actively support efforts to combat Virginia's contribution to global warming?

Unless the trend is reversed, rising sea levels will submerge many of the Chesapeake Bay's historic islands. Much of historic Jamestown will be underwater by the year 2107. Virginia power companies are looking to spend billions of dollars on coal-fired power plants, including one on the edge of the Jefferson National Forest. What position did your delegates and senators take on the Allegheny/Dominion proposal for a new transmission corridor, low-emissions vehicles for the state fleet and development of low-carbon renewable energy sources?

2. What did the legislature do to improve the quality of the air you breathe?

The Shenandoah National Park is the nation's third most polluted national park, according to a recent edition of *Frommer's Virginia*. Smog, soot and mercury are serious threats to our health, but they can be threats to flora and fauna as well. Did your representatives do anything during the 2007 session to require older coal-fired power plants to meet higher pollution control standards? Did they do anything to curb sources of airborne mercury?

3. Was anything done during the 2007 session to promote wetlands protection?

Did your representatives provide significant and reliable funding for land conservation? Virginia is losing important habitat at an alarming rate. If we are to reverse or slow down this trend, funding is needed to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed, for local purchase of development rights (PDR) programs, and for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

4. Was any legislation passed to protect citizens against Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) suits?

In some Virginia locations, developers have sought to discourage public involvement by filing suits against individuals who have spoken out against development proposals. SLAPP suits penalize citizens who want to get involved, express their opinions publicly and exercise their right to free speech in planning and development processes. Although these suits are an abuse of the legal system, they can still have a chilling effect on conservation advocacy. We need legislation designed to protect citizens from SLAPP suits.

5. What, if anything, was done to curb land-disturbing forestry practices? What did the legislature do to promote sustainable forest management? What action, if any, was taken on the wilderness bill?

Our elected representatives should not hear our concerns, for the first and only time, during or immediately preceding the legislative session – when their time is at a premium. When you attend public hearings, speak with elected representatives, write letters, e-mails and articles, and engage in other community activities during 2007, keep your scorecard in mind and plant the seeds of conservation wherever and whenever you can. If your senator and delegate did not adequately represent your conservation views during the 2007 session, you should let them know, now and throughout the rest of the year.

I would be remiss if I did not give credit where credit is due. Some of the information for items 1-5 was drawn from the *Virginia Conservation Briefing Book* (2007), published by the Virginia Conservation Network and Virginia League of Conservation Voters

(See Conservation, page 7)

Take a walk on the wild side with new statewide VNPS trips

Virginia abounds with scenic areas of botanical richness. Take this opportunity to visit some of these stunning places with some of our most knowledgeable trip leaders. We hope to make these trips yearly events, and to take our members to some of our registry sites, preserves and parks. This year we are offering field trips in York River State Park, the Potomac Gorge, and Shenandoah National Park. Trips vary in level of difficulty so please read descriptions carefully. Space is limited and registration is required at least 10 days before the hike. There is a \$10 fee per hike with an extra \$4 for the canoe trip. The Turkey Run hike is free for workday participants. See registration form below.

****April 28 (Saturday): York River State Park** - The park has 2,250 acres of beautiful and diverse natural areas including a coastal estuary. Two different hikes in the morning and an afternoon canoe trip.

Taskinas Creek Trail Walk April 28 (Saturday), York River State Park, 10 a.m.-noon - This will be an easy 1.5 mile-hike on the Taskinas Creek Trail. A variety of habitats from an upland mixed hardwood forest with chestnut oak and mountain laurel to a small brackish marsh along the creek will be explored. Timed to combine with canoe trip.

Powhatan Forks Trail/Majestic Oak Trail Loop Hike, April 28 (Saturday), York River State Park, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Donna Ware, Curator Emeritus of the Herbarium at the College of William and Mary, will lead a hike of moderate difficulty through various habitats in the watershed of a small York River tributary. Communities to be explored include coastal plain bluffs, fringing and pocket marshes, and a ravine-bottom swamp with large leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) shrubs. Other highlights include the Majestic Oak, ericaceous shrubs in flower, and a view from the bluffs of Puritan Bay, the location of Werowocomoco, Chief Powhatan's capitol in 1607.

Taskinas Creek Canoe Trip, April 28 (Saturday), York River State Park, 1-3 p.m. - Taskinas Creek and its surrounding watershed total 525 acres and are designated a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Explore the rich salt-marsh ecology of this creek with a park naturalist and VNPS board member Helen Hamilton.

****May 5 (Saturday) and May 6 (Sunday): The Potomac Gorge** - The many different habitats of the Potomac Gorge - upland forests, dry bedrock terraces, floodplain woodlands and prairies, and ponds and marshes

- are part of a region of exceptionally diverse flora, especially considering it is in an urban area of the East Coast. More than 1,400 different plants grow within the Potomac Gorge including many rare species.

Difficult Run, May 5 (Saturday), The Potomac Gorge, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. - Rod Simmons, a leading regional ecologist and VNPS Registry co-chair, will lead this trip. A major watershed of Fairfax County that flows into the Potomac below Great Falls, Difficult Run is a rugged, wild place with waterfalls and massive rocky outcrops. Expect to see a wide variety of spring wildflowers, including spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*), yellow pimpernel (*Taenidia integerrima*) and bird's foot violet (*Viola pedata*). Melic grass (*Melica mutica*) and a number of sedges grow in this rich, rocky woods. The walk continues to Mather Gorge where there is a sweeping panoramic view of the Potomac River. A potential extension of this walk is to continue to Great Falls for a round trip distance of approximately five miles.

Great Falls Park, May 5 (Saturday), The Potomac Gorge, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Marion Lobstein, associate professor of biology at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, will lead an easy walk starting from the visitor's center at Great Falls Park. Highlights include water willow (*Decodon verticillatus*), the rare few-flowered valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*), starchy false Solomon's-seal (*Smilacina stellata*) and the anglepod milkweed (*Matelea obliqua*). Views of Great Falls from the bluffs.

Turkey Run Invasive Workday May 6 (Sunday), 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and hike, 1:30-4 p.m. - Join Mary Travaglini of the Nature Conservancy for an invasive removal work party in the gorge. Wear long pants and long sleeves and bring work gloves.

After a lunch break, Cris Fleming leads a walk down a somewhat steep trail to the Potomac River shore, and takes a more moderate return trail. Recently named a VNPS registry site, this mature forest with interesting understory vegetation gives way to rocky and sandy shores along the river. Cris, a former VNPS board member and a botanist with many years experience in the area, hopes to show us few-flowered valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*), Short's rockcress (*Arabis shortii*), starchy false Solomon's-seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), and field chickweed (*Cerastium arvense ssp. velutina*).

****Shenandoah National Park, Hawksbill Gap Area, June 9 (Saturday), 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** - Sample some of the park's high-elevation natural communities with Gary Fleming, vegetation ecologist with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage. This hike, of moderate difficulty on steep and rocky trails, leaves from the Hawksbill Gap parking lot (Milepost 45.6) and lasts four to five hours. Natural communities to be explored include boulderfield woodlands with mountain ash and yellow birch, rich cove forests, high-elevation seeps and greenstone barrens. Sturdy footwear, preferably hiking boots, required.

Shenandoah National Park, Stony Man Nature Trail, June 9 (Saturday), 10 a.m.-3 p.m. - For a less challenging hike that still offers an abundance of wildflowers and a stunning view of the Shenandoah Valley, join Maryland Native Plant Society board member Joe Metzger at Stony Man Nature Trail. Expect to see a variety of ferns and possibly white clintonia, (*Clintonia umbellulata*) and shrub honeysuckle in flower. Meet in Stony Man trailhead parking area.

Field Trip Registration

Park entrance fees are not included in the registration price. For all hikes, wear sturdy shoes or boots and be prepared for bugs and sun. Bring water and lunch or snacks. Please mail your registration with your field trip choice(s) to:

VNPS FIELD TRIPS, 400 Blandly Farm Lane, Boyce VA 22620.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Field trips (\$10/person except canoe and Turkey Run) NOTE: To register for the Turkey Run workday and free field trip on May 6, contact Shirley Gay 703-920-1913 or shirleywg@comcast.net. Include phone number with any message.

____ Taskinas Creek Trail, April 28

____ Taskinas Creek (\$14), April 28, (please do not bring your own canoe)

____ Powhatan Forks/Majestic Oak Loop, April 28

____ Difficult Run, May 5 _____ Great Falls, May 5

____ Hawksbill Gap, June 9 _____ Stony Man Nature Trail, June 9

_____ **TOTAL**

Exhibit features VNPS Botany chair and Flora Project artist

W. John Hayden, Professor of Biology and Curator of the Herbarium, University of Richmond and co-curator of the exhibition, Native Plants of Virginia: Selections from the University of Richmond Herbarium, will deliver a lecture in conjunction with the Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Na-

Permaculture design course offered

A 72-hour certificate course in permaculture design, Sustainability Strategies for the Blue Ridge, will be presented by the Association for Regenerative Culture and the Blue Ridge Permaculture Network over five weekends at the Rockfish Valley Community Center (RVCC) in Nelson County at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains (March 2-4, 16-18, March. 30-April 1, 13-15, and 27-29). This Permaculture Design Course lays the foundation for understanding the workings of natural systems and for designing human environments that produce food, shelter, and energy. It also provides participants with models of community development and extension by which they can create networks of support for themselves and empower others to do the same. The course provides tools to help

ture exhibit opening on Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. His talk, "From Flower to Flora: The Nuts and Bolts of Floristic Botany," will be followed by a reception and preview of the herbarium exhibit until 9 p.m.

Friday, March 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. artist Lara Call Gastinger, botanical illustrator and artist fea-

design and develop an individual's urban or rural property in a sustainable manner, revitalize local communities, and help restore ecological balance. Permaculture promotes land use systems that work with natural rhythms and patterns

(See *Permaculture*, page 8)

tured in the exhibition, will present a gallery talk and drawing workshop entitled "Botanical Art and Illustration." The gallery talk and drawing workshop are free, but participants need to register for the workshop at 804-287-6324.

The Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature exhibit will run from February 28 to June 24. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. The gallery is closed during spring break (3/3 to 3/12) and Easter weekend. For more information, call 804.289.8276 or visit <http://museums.richmond.edu/lrg/index.html>. The exhibit will be open during the VNPS Annual Workshop. Admission is free.

• Conservation

(Continued from page 5)

- Education Fund. If you would like to learn more about the issues referenced in this article, I encourage you to visit www.vcnva.org and www.valcv.org/citizensguide where you can study the issues in much greater detail. VNPS is an active member of the Virginia Conservation Network and I encourage you to take advantage of its resources. Similarly, the idea of keeping a political scorecard is not a new one. For example, the Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VALCV) publishes a Virginia General Assembly Conservation Scorecard that is most helpful to the conservation activist. Last year's scorecard is available at the www.valcv.org site.

Leo Stoltz, VNPS Conservation Chair

See the address label for your membership expiration date VNPS Membership/Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___ Individual \$30

___ Student \$15

___ Family \$40

___ Associate (groups) \$40*

___ Patron \$50

___ Sustaining \$100

___ Life \$500

*Please designate one person as delegate for Associate membership

To give a gift membership or join additional chapters: Enclose dues, name, address, and chapter (non-voting memberships in any other than your primary chapter are \$5)

I wish to make an additional contribution to ___ VNPS or _____ Chapter in the amount of ___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$(Other) _____

_____ Check if you do not wish your name to be listed to be exchanged with similar organizations in a chapter directory

Make check payable to VNPS and mail to:

VNPS Membership Chair, Blandly Experimental Farm, 400 Blandly Farm Lane, Unit 2, Boyce, VA 22620

Membership dues are tax deductible in the amount they exceed \$5. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

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Sally Anderson, President

Nancy Sorrells, Editor

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• SOS

(Continued from page 2)

The aims of the Millennium Seed Bank Project are:

- Collect and conserve 10 percent, over 24,000 species, of the world's seed-bearing flora, principally from the dry lands, by 2010.
- Carry out research to improve all aspects of seed conservation.
- Make seeds available for research and species reintroduction into the wild.

• Hawkmoths

(Continued from page 1)

hovering over an atamasco lily, with enough detail to permit identification of both the plant and the insect, could make a real contribution to Virginia's natural history. Of course, complete documentation of hawkmoth pollination would require more data, e.g., recovery of atamasco pollen from the bodies of floral visitors, comparison of seed set in visited flowers versus flowers bagged to exclude visitors, recording peak times of nectar production, etc. But a good, clear, photograph would be a great start. Surely someone out there is up for the task of expanding the knowledge base of the VNPS 2007 Wildflower of the Year.

W. John Hayden, VNPS Botany Chair

- Encourage plant conservation throughout the world by facilitating access to and transfer of seed conservation technology.
- Maintain and promote the public interest in plant conservation.
- Provide a world-class facility as a focal resource for this activity.

*Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter
Nicky Staunton, VNPS 2nd VP*

• Permaculture

(Continued from page 7)

to create sustainable cultivated ecosystems. Participants will learn how to design and build gardens, homes, and neighborhoods that model living ecosystems. The cost for the course is \$895, and a few work trade positions are available. Early registration is encouraged as space is limited. Lunches and snacks will be provided. Students will be responsible for their own overnight accommodations off-site, as well as transportation to and from the site. For a list of accommodations close to RVCC, go to <http://www.nelsoncounty.com/visit/lodging>. For more information visit www.permacultureactivist.net/DesignCourse/PcSyllabus.htm or contact Christine Gyovai at 434-982-6464 or christinegyovai@gmail.com.

VNPS SOS Statewide Workshop and Hands-on Training

WHEN: March 24 full day event
10 a.m.

WHERE: University of Richmond with Andy Walker, NCBG SOS Coordinator

CONTACT: Nicky Staunton at nstaunton@earthlink.net or 540-547-2813 for information or to register.

Former VNPS collectors and those interested in collecting for Seeds of Success will meet for review and update by their SOS American South Atlantic Coast coordinator, Andrew Walker, Herbarium Curator, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. To deliver viable seeds efficiently within the protocols, training is necessary. At this workshop we will review the protocols including assessing seed viability, collection methods and shipping. Theory and practice of seed banking will be covered. Then a collection will be attempted to teach participants how to take and record herbarium samples, how to evaluate the amount of seed available and how to collect, record and process appropriate amounts of seed. Please join us for this informative session.