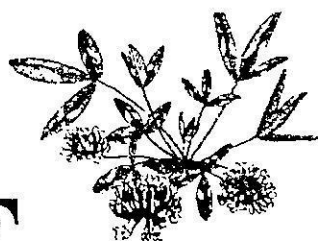


NATIVE



Kate's Mountain Clover

NOTES

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 7, Number 2

July 2000

WVNPS ANNUAL MEETING GREENBRIER YOUTH CAMP

By: Bill Grafton

The year 2000 WVNPS Annual Meeting will be held at Greenbrier Youth Camp from Friday September 8 through Sunday September 10. This beautiful 4-H Camp is located along the banks of the Greenbrier River near Anthony in Greenbrier County. The camp is located in a rural wooded setting, so you want to be sure and come prepared with all of the things you think you might need. It is about a 35-minute drive back to Lewisburg for any shopping.

The lodging will be dormitory style and you will need to bring a sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket. Bring your own pillow and towels too. The meals will be great!! Emily Hinzman has been the chief cook for over 20 years now. The camp is renowned for her homemade rolls and well-prepared meals. See the insert for registration information and costs per meal. Registration deadline is Sept. 2, 2000.

The main attraction of this location of course is the plants. There are more terrific sites than we will have time to visit. For example, some of the best shale barrens exist nearby at Whites Draft, Meadow Creek (Neola) and Kates Mountain. The rare *Goodyera repens* grows near Blue Bend. The Greenbrier River Trail (former railroad grade) will provide easy access to miles of fall wildflowers and "prairie communities." Sherwood Lake and nearby white pine areas offer great botanizing. Acres of wetlands stretch for miles along the headwaters of the Meadow River. This area is truly one of the richest botanical areas in the state.

REPORT OF JULY 8, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

By: Bill Grafton

The most recent WVNPS Board of Directors meeting was held at Cedar Lakes Conference Center on July 8. Several items of business were addressed. The topics are listed below.

1. Discussion was held on dues notices. The primary notice will be a separate insert in the first newsletter of the year. For those who do not return the notice, the President will send a renewal notice.
2. Publicity of the organizations activities needs to be presented in newspapers around the state
3. Support from WVNPS on controversial environmental issues was discussed. We will bring this issue up for discussion at the annual meeting. We need to take steps to create a list of important botanical areas in WV, so we can prioritize our areas of concern before they are threatened or controversies arise around them.
4. The two native plant highway plots are seeded and growing. Donna Ford-Werntz and the Kanawha Valley Tri-State Chapters deserve a big round of applause.
5. Richard Thompson (chair), Danny Stevenson and Romie Hughart agreed to be the Nominations Committee.
6. A "master native plant program was discussed."
7. A future web page was discussed



CAMPSIS
radicans

VIRGINIA CREEPER IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE?

By: Emily Grafton

Parthenocissus quinquefolia has always intrigued me. Twenty years ago, it seemed that the only place I would see this plant was in the forest, trailing across the ground or climbing up the trunk of some large tree or fence post, particularly along forest edges, or openings. Its heavily veined-dark-green, palmate-shaped leaves look somewhat elegant whether it is growing prostrate across the ground or lifted thirty feet into the air along the trunk of a tree. However, more and more lately, I have seen Virginia creeper spreading like a fan across the south or southwestern sides of large buildings, particularly those with brick walls. It commonly grows up telephone and other utility poles in Morgantown, WV.

All through the summer, the dark green foliage creates a beautiful natural arbor on the sides of buildings or wrapped around utility poles. It is not until late summer that this plant matures into the stunningly gorgeous beauty that it is destined to be. The foliage turns a brilliant red announcing to over thirty species of birds that its dark-blue berries are ripe for their feasting. As fall progresses, the leaves fade to a rosy pink which is just as lovely as the deep-red stage of coloration.

Beginning in early July, the plant produces its tiny flowers. According to the Flora of West Virginia, the flowers grow in compound cymes or panicles in the leaf axils. Each flower bears five petals with five spreading stamens. The flowers have a 2-celled ovary, with two ovules per cavity. By the end of July or early August, the flowers have matured into blue berries. The flower stalks turn bright red and the blue-black fruits get a whitish powdery substance on their surface. The fruits will attract and provide food for many birds throughout the winter including mockingbirds, robins, thrushes, bluebirds, woodpeckers and brown thrashers.

Virginia creeper does not only provide food for birds. It is the host plant for sphinx moths. Three species of sphinx moths lay their eggs on Virginia creeper in the spring. The emerging caterpillars will feed on the leaves of Virginia creeper all summer long. By early fall the caterpillars will crawl to the ground and burrow themselves in the soil where they develop into a pupa. They will remain throughout the winter in the pupa stage. The pupa wiggle back to the surface in early summer, once on the ground they will transform into adults. The adults have long

mouthparts for drinking nectar and will feed on plants with long, tubular flowers like the honeysuckles and rhododendrons before laying their eggs and beginning their life cycle anew.

Most of us already have a rhododendron in our yards or gardens. If we were to add Virginia creeper into our landscaping, we could create an opportunity to attract the magnificent sphinx moths to our backyards, as well as providing food and some cover for a host of birds. However, inviting Virginia creeper into our suburban or urban yards is not an invitation to be made without pre-establishing a strategic location and a set of behavior control tactics. Virginia creeper is aggressive and opportunistic like we humans, if a comparison were to be made with the natural history of our species.



First, Virginia creeper has a unique way of climbing. Not only does it produce curling tendrils, much as greenbrier and grape, but Virginia creeper also generates tiny adhesive discs at the tips of each tendril that comes in contact with a surface it can stick too. Several sources have quoted that Darwin once did an experiment with the plant and discovered that if just five discs were to grow on one tendril, their combined strength could support ten pounds. Consequently, you may not want Virginia creeper growing up the side of your house and into your gutters. Once attached, these discs are extremely difficult to pull free from a surface. Removing the plant from a surface can peel paint, dislodge vinyl siding and bring down gutters.

The plant will grow as high as any surfaces it can cling to, and with its curling tendrils expand onto nearby surfaces. Consequently, you must provide a trellis or pole to run the plant up, or start a plant against an outbuilding away from your house or garage. You want to prevent damage from its

powerful suction cup-like discs and be able to control its endless growth. But what an incredibly beautiful addition it can make to your landscape if you can carefully nudge and direct its growth over an arbor or trellis to create a border. If you have a large tree, you can establish a plant at the base of the tree. Virginia creeper does best in full sunlight for at least part of the day. However, it does grow more slowly in the shade of the forest.

I have a tiny plant started in a secret shady place in my yard. It has not grown very fast, but new shoots keep appearing. I'm waiting for just the right place to transplant it too. More than likely in my tiny yard, this will have to be at the base of a trellis away from the house. Otherwise, my husband will attempt to "murder" it, because he is already harried by my neglect of the morning glory vines growing up one side of the front porch. I, on the other hand would be perfectly content to transform our tiny urban setting into a wild, impenetrable jungle of plants and butterflies, birds and bees.

EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO PROTECT THREATENED SUB-SPECIES OF BALSAM FIR

By: Emily Grafton

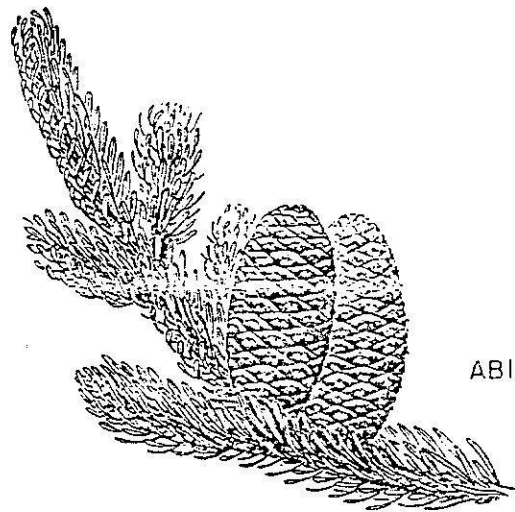
In the east, species of fir generally have an expansive range throughout Canada and Alaska. However, a sub-species of the northern balsam fir have survived since the days of the last ice age in isolated pockets at the highest elevations in West Virginia. According to Earl Core in *Vegetation of West Virginia*, "Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) another characteristic tree of the northern evergreen forest, reaches its southernmost limits in West Virginia, where it is often called blister-pine, from the prominent resin blisters on the trunks." The isolated populations of balsam fir in West Virginia are considered to have developed distinct characteristics enough to give it a sub-species name, *phanerolepis*.

Historically, this tree was associated with the native red spruce stands that once covered hundreds of thousands of acres in the mountain counties of the state. The few remaining stands of balsam fir exist in Canaan Valley, Tucker County, Blister Swamp, Pocahontas County, Blister Run, Randolph County and Stony River Dam, Grant County. However, over the last three years numerous individuals and scientists have noticed significant declines in the populations of mature trees.

Several individuals have concluded that nearly 80 % of the remaining balsam fir trees in the state may have died. The mortality rates are due to several factors including old age; an invasive insect called the balsam wooly adelgid and acid rain may also be a contributing factor. In Canaan Valley,

the most significant threat to the survival of the stands is the large deer herd. Deer browse heavily on the seedlings of balsam fir. During the winter when very little food is available they will eat balsam fir seedlings and not red spruce seedlings. Consequently, trees are not regenerating. If something is not done soon, balsam fir may be extirpated from the state.

A cooperative of employees of the USDA Forest Service, and individuals from the Nature Conservancy, the Mountain Institute and the Highlands Conservancy have taken efforts to protect the species. They collected seed from a stand in Blister Swamp owned by the John Dalen family. The seed are being grown in a nursery in Minnesota and will be transplanted to the Blister Swamp site and in a few locations in the headwaters of the Shavers Fork. The Dalen family has taken extra steps to protect this tree and several rare species of plants native to Blister Swamp. With the assistance of the cooperative listed above, the family has fenced 40 acres of the swamp to protect the trees and other vegetation from deer and cattle.



ABIES balsamea

A lot of folks are working hard to find a solution to protecting one of our most beautiful trees. Though this tree is not known to provide a significant source of food for wildlife, or timber for human needs, it is a unique species with a one-of-kind genetic blueprint. However, our native balsam fir has found its way into the Christmas tree trade where it has become a popular selection. You will also find its graceful bows on the letterhead and business cards of the Canaan Valley Institute.

Currently, Dave Saville has initiated a project to collect seed from several sites this summer. The seed will be transported to the Plant Materials Center at Alderson, WV, run by the USDA NRCS. There, some seed will be stored for later use and some will be planted to provide seedlings for re-planting projects. Dave organized volunteers to collect seed over the weekend of July 29 & 30 and will be working again on August 19 & 20. For more information contact Dave at 304/284-9548 or email at daves@labs.net.

Kanawha Valley Chapter Native Plant Wildflower Plot

By: Chris Gatens

A little over a year ago, Donna Ford-Werntz proposed that the WV Native Plant Society should participate in the State Department of Highway's roadside planting project. Primarily, the only kinds of plants that had been planted along our state highways were non-native mid-western species. Donna provided the Board with some information about a Plant Nursery where seed of native species could be purchased. Both the Kanawha Valley Chapter and the Huntington Chapters agreed to formally work with the State to find one location where a plot of native perennial wildflowers could be established through the volunteer efforts of members of the respective chapters. The Board of Directors of the WV Native Plant Society agreed to spend \$400.00 on the two demonstration plots.

The location of the site established by the Kanawha Valley Chapter is the I-64 westbound rest area at Hurricane. The 20-foot by 65-foot plot was seeded with the mix shown below on May 6, 2000. The first signs of germination were observed on June 15 and consisted primarily of seedlings of lupine. Several other plants in the seedling stage were also observed, but they were not distinguishable at that stage. The seed mix planted on the site consisted of the following species in the proportions listed. More plants have come up, and it appears that the project has been successful. It usually takes two years to get a bed of perennial native plants fully established. Members of the chapter will continue to monitor the project and will provide us with an update on what has been learned about the best strategies for establishing perennial native plant wildflower beds.

SEED MIX SPREAD ON THE PLOT

Partridge Pea – 14.99%
Black-eyed Susan – 14.99 %
Wild blue lupine – 14.93%
Virginia wild rye – 9.7 %
Spiked gayfeathers – 9.3 %
Side oats gramma – 8.23%
Little blue stem – 8.13%
Blue vervain – 4.91%
Gray beardtongue – 4.36%
Boneset – 3.38%

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Romie Hughart and Richard Thompson are conducting a plant inventory of the East Lynn Lake Recreation area. The following reports represent the different locations and habitats that they are observing.

Hollow West of the North End of The Emergency Spillway – May 22, 2000

Venus looking glass – *Specularia perfoliata*
Ox-eye daisy – *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*
Sweet everlasting – *Gnaphalium obtusifolium*
Gray beardtongue – *Penstemon canescens*
Ginseng – *Panax quinquefolius*
Partridgeberry – *Mitchella repens*
Anglepod – *Gonolobus shortii*
Alum root – *Heuchera americana*

Cove Spruce Branch (old road along lake) – June 4, 2000

Intermediate dogbane – *Apocynum medium*
Basil balm – *Monarda clinopodia*
Deptford pink – *Dianthus armeria*
Moneywort – *Lysimachia nummularia*

June 25, 2000

Hairy ruellia – *Ruellia caroliniensis*
Black-eyed Susan – *Rudbeckia hirta*
Hoary mountain mint – *Pycnanthemum icanum*
Narrow-leaved mountain mint – *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*
Common milkweed – *Asclepias syriaca*
Common mullein – *Verbascum thapsus*
Yucca – *yucca filamentosa*
Thimbleweed – *Anemone virginiana*
White avens – *Geum canadense*
Leather flower – *Clematis viorna*
Common St. John's-wort – *Hypericum perforatum*
Greater coreopsis – *Coreopsis major*
Water willow – *Justicia americana*
Swamp milkweed – *Asclepias incarnata*
American germander – *Tuecrium canadense*
Selfheal – *Prunella vulgaris*
Tall bellflower – *Campanula Americana*

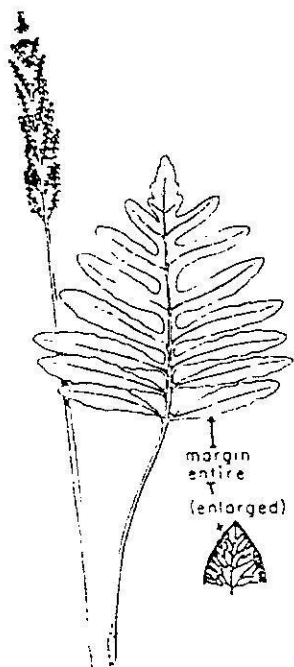
Hollow West of North end of Emergency Spillway – July 19, 2000

Seedbox – *Ludwigia alternifolia*
Indian tobacco – *Lobelia inflata*
Naked-flowered tick trefoil – *Desmodium nudiflorum*
Butterfly pea – *Clitoria mariana*
Flowering spurge – *Euphorbia corollata*
Large-flowered leafcup – *Polymnia uvedalia*
Long-leaved houstonia – *Houstonia longifolia*

Buttonweed – *Diodia teres*
 Crane fly orchis – *Tipularia discolor*
 Downy rattlesnake plantain – *Goodyera pubescens*
 Hairy hawkweed – *Hieracium gronovii*
 Dwarf St. Johnswort – *Hypericum mutilum*
 Rough cinquefoil – *Potentilla norvegica*
 Wild potato vine – *Ipomoea pandurata*
Hibiscus spp.

Kanawha Valley Chapter field trip to McClintic Wildlife Station, near Point Pleasant, WV. June 3, 2000. Present on the field trip were Christopher Gatens, Connie Garnes, Bill Hall and Mary Sansom.

Sweet flag – *Acorus calamus*
 Skunk cabbage – *Symplocarpus foetidus*
 Least duckweed – *Lemna minor*
 Watermeal – *Wolffia punctata*
 Sensitive fern – *Onoclea sensibilis*
 Boot's Wood fern – *Dryopteris bootii*
 Cinnamon fern – *Osmunda cinnamomea*
 Broad-leaved cattail – *Typha latifolia*
 Narrow-leaved cattail – *Typha angustifolia*
 Shingle oak – *Quercus imbricaria*
 Southern red oak – *Quercus falcata*
 Pin oak – *Quercus palustris*
 Lizard's tail – *Saururus cernuus*
 Watershield – *Brasenia schreberi*
 Swamp rose – *Rosa palustris*
 Pasture rose – *Rosa carolina*
 Steeplebush – *Spirea tomentosa*
 Water primrose – *Jussiaea decurrens*
 Kinnikinnik – *Cornus amomum*
 Smooth arrowwood – *Viburnum recognitum*



ONOCLEA sensibilis

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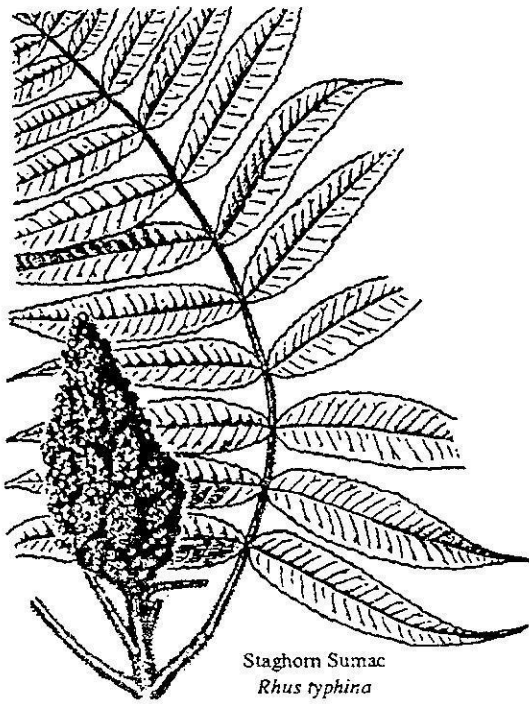
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Native Shrubs

...in wildlife landscaping

Published by

West Virginia Native Plant Society
West Virginia Nongame Wildlife Program

SUMAC

Staghorn (Velvet or Hairy) Sumac - Rhus typhina

Smooth Sumac - R. glabra

Shining (Winged) Sumac - R. copallina

Fragrant Sumac - R. aromatica

Poison Sumac - R. vernix

Form: **Staghorn** - Shrub or small tree with a few large upright branches, usually 15 to 25 feet high.

Smooth - Shrub to 15 feet height, open, with few branches.

Shining - Shrub or small tree, usually 10 to 20 feet tall.

Fragrant - Fast growing rambling shrub to 6 feet tall, dense growth.

Poison - Shrub or small tree, open branching, usually 10 to 25 feet tall.

Twigs and Bark: **Staghorn** - Large twigs covered with dense reddish-brown hairs, yellowish wood, milky sap if twig broken.

Smooth - Large twigs are smooth and gray, frequently coated with a whitish substance, flat sided twigs, milky sap if twig broken.

Shining - Twigs medium-sized, velvety and covered with raised dots.

Fragrant - Twigs small, hairy, with yellow buds.

Poison - Bark gray with many small cross streaks circling the trunk, twigs smooth.

Leaves: All are alternate, compound with terminal leaflet (Note: **Fragrant** has a 3-parted compound leaf).

Staghorn on margins, whitish cast to leaflets, turns bright yellow-scarlet in fall.

Smooth - 8 to 16 inches long with 11 to 31 leaflets, stalk of leaf smooth, turns orange-scarlet in fall.

Shining - 8 to 12 inches long with 15 to 23 shiny leaflets, stalk of leaf with winged margins between the leaflets, turns crimson or purplish in fall.

Fragrant - 3 leaflets, hairy, fragrant smell when crushed, turns orange-red or red-purple in fall. Very similar in looks to Poison Ivy and Poison Oak.

Poison - 8 to 12 inches long with 7 to 13 leaflets, smooth leaflet margins.

Fruits: **Staghorn** - Long, pointed clusters of small red seeds covered with dense, long, red hairs.
Smooth - Long, pointed clusters of small red seeds covered with short red hairs.
Shining - Open, pointed clusters to 6 inches length, red seed covered by sparse short hairs.
Fragrant - Small clusters of up to 20 red hairy seeds.
Poison - Clusters of open gray to white seeds without hairs.

WV RANGE:

Staghorn - Throughout W.Va. Smooth - Throughout W.Va. Shining - Common except at high elevations. Fragrant - Most common in eastern counties of Berkeley, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Mercer, Mineral, Pendleton, Pocahontas, and Summers. Also from Mason, Raleigh, and Wirt. Poison - Rare, known from Mineral, Monongalia, Pocahontas, Preston and Randolph counties.

NATURAL HABITAT:

Staghorn - Open hillsides, old fields and fencerows.
Smooth - Open hillsides, old fields and fencerows.
Shining - Old fields and rocky hillsides.
Fragrant - Dry rocky woods and banks.
Poison - Swamps and bogs.

WILDLIFE USES:

Sumac fruits are not preferred by most animals and birds but the red fruits do remain on the shrubs throughout winter and provide emergency food when more desirable foods are scarce or gone. Birds such as grouse, turkey, bluebirds, and robin rely heavily on the fruits as do many winter songbirds. Rabbits and deer eat bark, fruits and foliage.

HORTICULTURE:

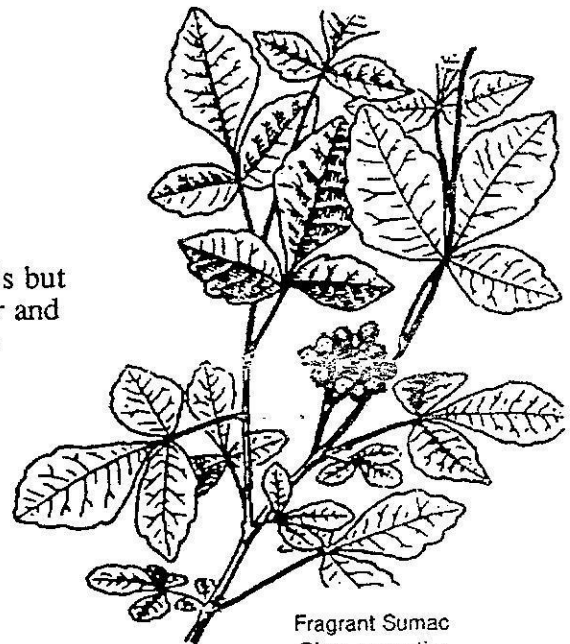
Uses: Staghorn and Smooth - Large groups on poor soils and waste areas. Shining - Border, specimen or large group on dry, waste areas. Fragrant - Groups, foundation planting, rock gardens, cover for banks and steep barren areas. Poison - All parts too toxic for use near humans.

Light: Full sun.

Soil Moisture: Staghorn, Smooth, Shining - Prefer moist, well-drained soil but can grow on very poor, dry soils. Fragrant - Dry soils. Poison - Wet soils.

Soil pH: Acid to neutral.

Problems: Most sumacs have few serious pests. Verticillium wilt sometimes kills Staghorn Sumac. Sumacs are short-lived but produce root suckers freely which will replace any individuals killed or which die naturally. Poison sumac is too toxic to be considered as an ornamental.



Fragrant Sumac
Rhus aromatica

COMPILED BY: EMILY K. GRAFTON, botanist, naturalist and environmental educator, Morgantown, West Virginia

Written by West Virginia Native Plant Society members and jointly published with the WV Nongame

RESERVATION FORM FOR WVNPS YEAR 2000 ANNUAL MEETING

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

The weekend will begin with the evening meal at 6:00 PM at the camp. If you can, arrive early and do a little botanizing along the river or rail trail. You will cross the rail trail just before crossing the bridge over the Greenbrier River approximately one mile before entering the camp. The Board Meeting will be held Saturday evening after dinner. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM on Saturday for those who want to arrive then.

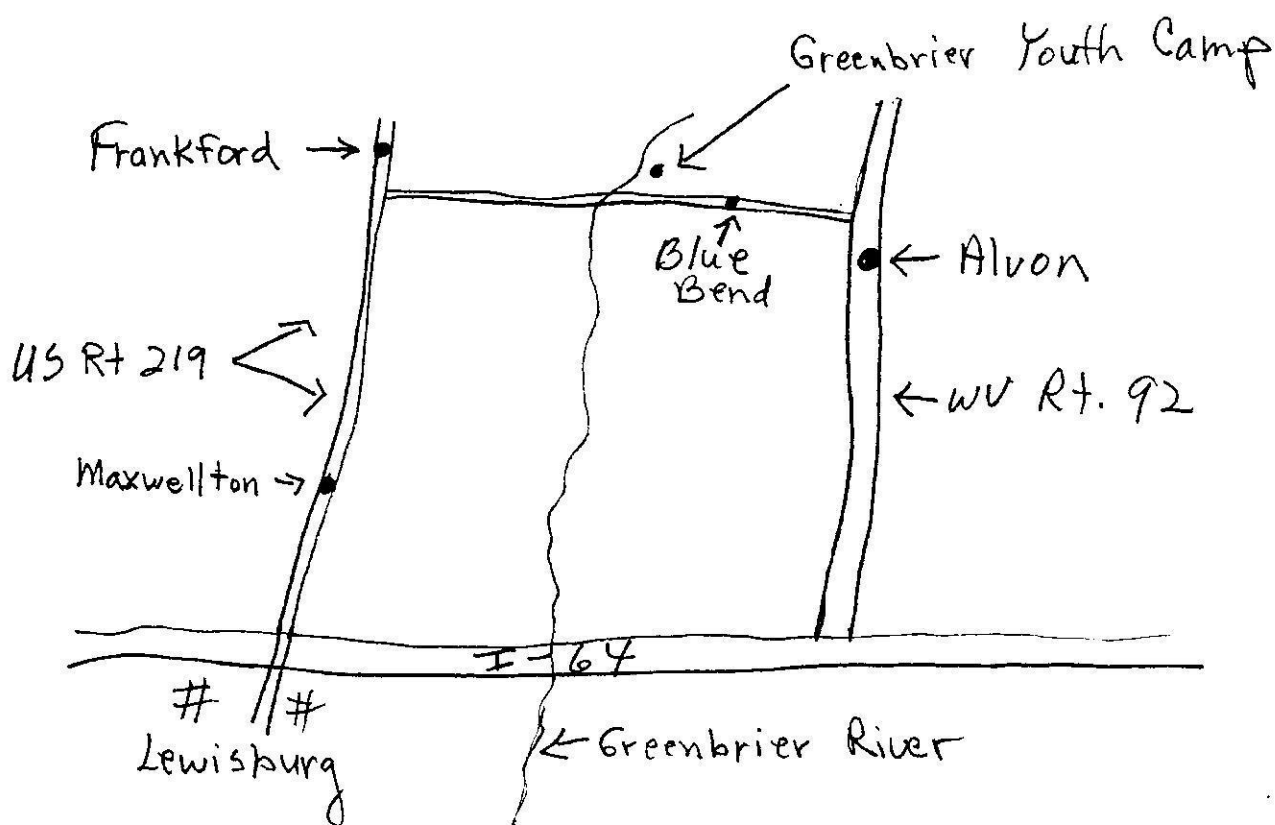
Friday, September 8 Dinner \$6.50 x _____ people = \$ _____
 Lodging \$9.00 x _____ people = \$ _____

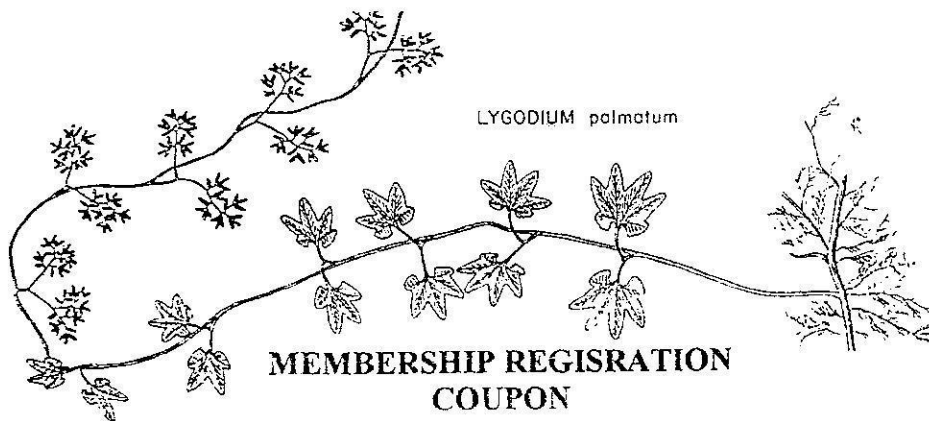
Saturday, September 9 Breakfast \$3.50 x _____ people = \$ _____
 Lunch \$5.25 x _____ people = \$ _____
 Dinner \$6.50 x _____ people = \$ _____
 Lodging \$9.00 x _____ people = \$ _____

Sunday, September 10 Breakfast \$3.50 x _____ people = \$ _____

TOTAL= _____

****Make checks payable to "WV Native Plant Society" and mail to William Grafton at 456 West Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26501. Phone: 304/292-0229**
****MUST RETURN BY SEPT 2ND*******





Please sign me up as a member of the WVNPS!

Name (s) _____ Phone: _____

(h) _____

Address _____

(w) _____

Membership Dues: The membership term is for one calendar year (Jan 1 - Dec 31)

_____ Regular Membership: \$12.00 (membership for all members of a household)

_____ Student Membership: \$8.00 (any student, college age or below)

_____ Life Membership: \$200.00 (includes all members of a household)

Chapter membership: Kanawha Valley (Charleston) - \$6; Tri-State (Huntington) - \$5 * Must be a member of the state organization in order to join chapters.

I wish to make an additional contribution to the WVNPS in the amount of _____

This is a gift membership. Please include a card with my name as donor:

WVNPS
PO BOX 75403
CHARLESTON, WV 25375-0403



_____ esley Dr.
Washington WV 26181