



NATIVE

Kate's Mountain Clover

NOTES

WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 8, Number 1

April 2001

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is hard to believe but spring has sprung. We have bloodroot, trillium, twinleaf and Greek valerian in bloom in our tiny shade garden. Redbud blossoms paint the highway road banks with their rich rose color, and sprays of white-blossomed service berry splay all over wooded hillsides. But, as I write, the temperature outside hovers around 36 degrees Fahrenheit and snowflakes have drifted to the ground throughout the day. However, it's a good wager that by the time you receive this newsletter, the air will be warm and the trees green with leaves.

Several very good articles were submitted from the membership for this issue. Two of the articles are related to the formation of the Eastern Panhandle Native Plant Society. Through the dynamic leadership and enthusiasm of Lynn Wagner, the organization has formed and already hard at work organizing educational projects and a regular series of programs.

There are two how-to articles in this issue. Sam Norris' key on the *Heuchera* should be of great interest to many of you. From Sam's work, it would appear that the dynamics of nature and the ability of plants to hybridize create a challenge for organizing even a small group of plants. Jon Weems article on how to create a stable shrub habitat provides some good information about establishing native shrubs and how to remove invasive species.

Be sure to read about the new Allegheny Botanical Art Society. They will be doing some good work that you may want to contribute to.

Wishing you many great days "in the field."
Emily

NEW WVNPS CHAPTER FORMS

By: Lynn Wagner

Last November, a new chapter of the West Virginia Native Plant Society held its first meeting in Martinsburg, WV. At that initial organization gathering, more than 20 people created the framework for the guiding mission and future activities of the *Eastern Panhandle Native Plant Society* (EPNPS).

Since November, the group has met monthly for field trips and educational sessions. Attendance and membership has grown steadily. There are currently about 25 paid members, mostly from Berkeley and Jefferson counties, but also from border communities in Maryland and Virginia.

In February 45 people turned out for a presentation by state heritage botanist P.J. Harmon on native plants and the impact of invasive species on the state's native populations. Other activities organized by the group include:

--A March presentation by the natural resource manager at Harpers Ferry National Park on how the park is managing its native and invasive species;

- An April wildflower walk through Yankauer Preserve, a 100-acre site managed by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society;
- A May trip to the nearby Virginia state arboretum, where the curator will give the group a private tour;
- A June field trip to look at native grasses, led by an EPNPS member botanist who is knowledgeable in this area.

EPNPS will also have a booth at an Earth Day event sponsored by Shepherd College, where it hopes to generate membership interest. The group will develop a brochure about EPNS for this event. The group is also working on web development, and expects to have a site up and running by April.

EPNPS members are active in a variety of volunteer activities related to native plants. As a result, the group has a short—but significant and growing—list of existing community projects for interested members who want to learn more or roll up their sleeves. Local volunteer projects include a native trail restoration project at the historic Peter Burr house, and an ongoing native planting project at Bolivar Park. Over time, EPNPS expects to identify further community needs and, in addition to participating in existing projects, launch some of its own initiatives.

As EPNPS grows, the group hopes to develop education materials for the membership and community, and may look into grant applications to support these activities.

For more information about the Eastern Panhandle Native Plant Society, contact: Lynn Wagner, President; 304-876-7027;



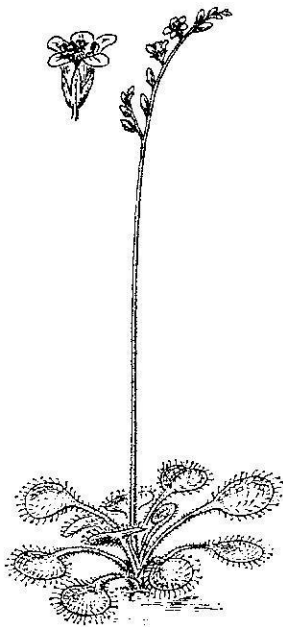
ANDROMEDA
glaucophylla

HARMON GIVES NEW CHAPTER - NATIVE BASICS

By: Lynn Wagner

Native plants need natural, undisturbed areas to thrive, but the advance of invasive species is threatening many of those areas. That was a central theme of the presentation by state heritage botanist, P.J. Harmon, to a February 3 gathering Eastern Panhandle Native Plant Society.

Mr. Harmon covered many essential topics for the recently formed group, offering definitions for such fundamental terms as a “natural area” and “native plant.” Mr. Harmon also described federally threatened and endangered native plants found in West Virginia and showed extensive slides of the plants in various West Virginia habitats. The plants included on that list are shale barren rockcress, small whorled pogonia, harperella, running buffalo clover, northeastern bulrush, and virginia spiraea. The habitats for these species are increasingly vulnerable to invasion by aggressive non-native plants, most of which are exotic species introduced to North America by humans, Mr. Harmon said.



DROSERA rotundifolia

In the early 1990s, for example, Mr. Harmon went to the Ohio River interior islands in search of eight rare plants, which he expected to find. But he only found one, a tree. The rest were wetland species that had been overtaken by eulalia grass from Asia. The grass spreads a vast green carpet, which doesn't sufficiently die back in winter for normal spring flooding to occur. As a result, it doesn't get "scoured away," and native species don't have a chance to fight back. Mr. Harmon described other examples of invasive threats:

--In Cranberry Glades, carnivorous pitcher plants are spreading. These plants, like the native sundew found in the Glades, survive by trapping insects and absorbing their nutrients. Well-meaning naturalists who thought they belonged there, since the plants were found naturally occurring in other acidic fens outside the state, introduced pitcher plants. They don't belong in Cranberry Glades, however, and now they are moving fast, threatening to out compete such natives as cotton grass, buckbean, bog rosemary, and sundew, Mr. Harmon said.

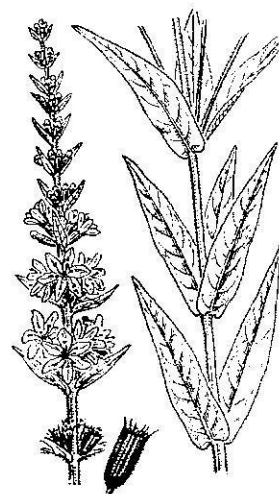
--In some shale barren areas where road expansion has occurred, Japanese honeysuckle and spotted knapweed can be seen starting up the base of shale slopes. Shale barrens are fragile communities that

are home to about 20 endemic species, including the federally endangered shale barren rockcress.

--In the state's messic forests, garlic mustard is showing up where wildflowers should be. Other major invasive threats include: purple loostrife; kudzu, "the vine that ate the south"; sachaline; and Japanese knotweed.

Invasives aren't the only the only threat to rare plants, Mr. Harmon said. The fibrous roots of harperella hold on well to sand, gravel, and mud bars, where the plants are typically found. During normal flooding, harperella is often knocked down, but it generally grows again along the nodes. In the wake of extreme flooding that occurred in 1997, however, 100,000 plants were lost on the Cacapon River. Since then, the population has risen to just over 40, but it's not clear whether the population will ever rise to its previous level. The problem is that the flood swept away the gravel which provided habitat for the plants.

"That tells us that the greatest threat to harperella are natural process of superior flooding," Mr. Harmon said. "Anything that we do in this area that enhances flooding is a threat to harperella." That could include development, or activity that hastens erosion.



LYTHRUM salicaria

ESTABLISHING A SHRUB FOREST

By: Jon Weems

If lessons learned the hard way are lessons well learned, two decades of work should have taught me something about establishing a shrub forest. This article is offered in the hope of helping someone else learn from my experiences at WVU's Core Arboretum.

My efforts began in the early 1980s. The area under the 23 kv power line that runs down the hill through the heart of the Arboretum was a major eyesore, a dense, thorny tangle of misshapen trees stitched together by grapevines, multiflora rose, and Japanese honeysuckle. The power company that owned the right-of-way (but not the land) would let this nightmarish forest grow for about ten years then send crews in with chain saws to cut everything more substantial than grass.

The clearcutting disrupted nesting birds and other wildlife. Subsequent re-growth brought back the ugly tangle. The power company wanted to replace the chain saw crews with aerial spraying of herbicides.

None of these conditions seemed appropriate for the middle of an arboretum. Then I heard of work in Connecticut that showed it was possible to establish a semi-stable shrub forest in a surprisingly small number of years. After hesitating because of the steepness and aggressive grapevines of the Arboretum, conditions, which I knew, would make things difficult, I decided to give it a shot.

I made room on my calendar to work on the right-of-way during the dormant season of February and early March. I would be able

to see what I was doing, and there would be no hornets or yellow jackets.

The Plan. The idea was to clear the right-of-way selectively, leaving the native shrub and small tree species, ignoring the blackberry and raspberry canes as much as possible, and removing the more arborescent species and invasive exotics. I knew I would also have to cut grapevines, which are a hindrance to shrub forest management. A WVU faculty member recommended stump treatment with a certain herbicide to reduce sprouting of unwanted species. I knew the process would be tedious. I would have to look closely to identify shrub seedlings and sprouts by twig and bud traits.

Twenty Years Later. It's been a struggle. Maintenance is only now beginning to get easier, with some of the more established shrubs shading out most competing tree seedlings. Invasive exotics are mostly under control. Large gaps between shrubs remain, though, so the right-of-way is still far from a "semi-stable shrub forest." Some tree sprouts still grow vigorously in the gaps, more than half the right-of-way area.

One problem is that I have rarely found time to cover the entire area in a single season. Trees and tree sprouts have managed to become well established. Also, the herbicide used on freshly cut stumps proved only partially effective during the dormant season. Maples, grapes, and even slippery elm sometimes had enough sap pressure to rinse off the herbicide, which proved entirely ineffective against black locust in any season. Because of these disappointing results and the fact that pausing to find and treat stumps greatly slowed the clearing process, the herbicide was abandoned years ago, after using up the first gallon of concentrate.

On the plus side, progress has been made. The cycle of clearcut and re-growth has ended. Even at its worst, the right-of-way is now much more attractive (or less unattractive) than it used to be. Arborescent sprouts in areas that have received frequent attention are much less numerous and vigorous than they were in 1981. There has been no aerial spraying of herbicides.



V. prunifolium

Nineteen species of native shrubs and small trees have “volunteered” in the right-of-way. The most common ones are hawthorn, spicebush, staghorn sumac, nannyberry, black haw, silky cornel, American hazelnut, flowering dogwood, and redbud. Less numerous shrubs and small trees have included bladdernut, choke cherry, arrowwood, elderberry, pawpaw, wild hydrangea, wahoo, crabapple, smooth sumac, and alternate-leaved dogwood. Many individual plants have developed into attractive specimens, and dense thickets have developed in spots.

Invasive exotics suppressed include ailanthus, multiflora rose, shrubby honeysuckles, Japanese honeysuckle (vine), privets, barberries, and winged euonymus.

What Should Have Been Done. Errors made cannot be undone, but suggestions

might help other persons who might consider a similar undertaking.

1. Get good information up front. Instead of plunging into a major project based on hearsay about work in Connecticut, I should have aggressively tracked down published information about that work and paid close attention to its methodology and results.
2. If herbicides are to be used, choose carefully. My herbicide recommendation came from a faculty member in Plant and Soil Sciences. I should have at least sought a second opinion from somebody in the Division of Forestry. If there is no herbicide that will both be effective and satisfy your environmental concerns, it's best to use no herbicide at all.
3. Plant desirable species. Some parts of the right-of-way are still understocked 20 years into the process. I should have augmented the natural stand with purchased stock. Tree tubes would have helped these plants become established and made them easy to spot during selective clearing.
4. Use the right tools. I have used many tools over the years, including chain saws, weed-whackers, bank blades, mattocks, rock picks, lawn mowers, pruning saws, lopping shears, hand pruners, hand-held sprayers, backpack sprayers, drip bottles, and flagging tape. Most of these have been useful at times, but I no longer use weed-whackers or bank blades. I prefer the rock pick for uprooting invasive exotics such as barberries

and shrubby honeysuckles. Lopping shears are best for selective clearing where desirable and undesirable species grow closely together. I sometimes use a lawn mower where the ground is not too steep, but only after carefully marking seedlings and small saplings of desirable species with flagging tape, to help me see and avoid mowing them.

More Tips. Trying to generalize from my experience to what others might encounter yielded these additional suggestions.

1. Learn to recognize the desirable species that grow in your area. I've generally done a good job of this, but the only redbuds in "my" right-of-way today have grown from stumps that were there before I started the process. This tells me I'm not very good at spotting seedlings of redbud! Also, for years I allowed fire cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) to grow, but it became evident that fire cherry would grow too tall. I now remove the large ones.
2. Don't use a lawn mower or weed-whacker on the same ground in consecutive years unless the area is already fully stocked with shrubs. First year seedlings of desirable species are very hard to spot, so mowing is likely to set them back as much as the plants you're trying to suppress. Also, raspberries and blackberries bear fruit on second year canes; so don't mow more than paths if you want to harvest wild berries.
3. Always work safely and carefully. You're bound to cut a few desirable stems by mistake now and then. Try to minimize this, but don't worry about it. Be more concerned about your own

safety, especially when using power equipment.

4. Never use any herbicide without first reading the label and following its personal and environmental safety suggestions. Be conservative if you use herbicides. Remember that frequent use can overwhelm the soil's ability to break herbicides down into more benign substances, and keep herbicides well away from bodies of water. It's entirely possible to establish a shrub forest without using any herbicides at all.
5. Cutting sprouts back during the growing season reduces vigor more than cutting during the dormant season. If you can safely and repeatedly get at undesirable sprouts during the growing season, you can prevent root systems from getting enough energy (in the form of sugars produced by leaves) to carry on. It's possible to kill initially vigorous root systems this way in just a few years, without using herbicides.

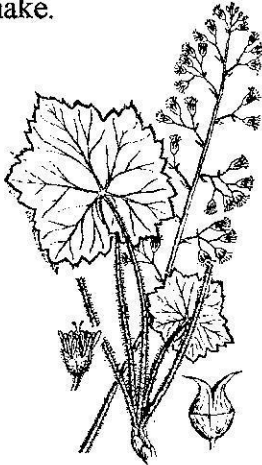
Converting a power line right-of-way to a shrub forest can be a long process. It doesn't yield instant gratification. Patience and persistence are essential. In most years, I spend close to 100 hours working on a few steep acres of right-of-way. This is a lot of time, but it's much less on an annual basis than I spend mowing a few acres of lawn, and the right-of-way gets a little more attractive each year.

I hope this hasn't sounded too discouraging. Establishing a shrub forest can be very satisfying – it's just that the satisfaction can be a long time coming.

NOTES ON ALUMROOTS (*HEUCHERA*) IN WEST VIRGINIA

By: Sam Norris

Sometimes in my work with rare plants, I find a group that is confusing - at least to me. For my own purposes, I sit down with books, journals and specimens, and I make notes and often write a key to the West Virginia species. I recently did that with the alumroots, and would like to share the results. Let me know whether you find this key useful and if there are any changes you would make.



H. villosa

1 Calyx white to pink, with long white hairs; flowers small (1.5-3 mm); leaves thin; flowering in summer

.....2

2 Leaf teeth more or less acute; seeds spiny.. *H. villosa*.....

2 Leaf teeth broadly rounded; seeds smooth... *H. parviflora*.....

1 Calyx green, with tiny glandular hairs; flowers larger (more than 3 mm); leaves thicker; flowering in spring3

3 Calyx regular or nearly so, the tube (measured to the base of lobes) less than 2 mm long; stamens extending well out of corolla.....*H. americana*

3 Calyx irregular, the tube more than 2 mm long; stamens extending little or not at all beyond corolla4

4 Styles and free beaks of ovary 6-8 mm long at flowering, extending little or not at all beyond corolla; sepals more or less spreading; plants of Ridge and

Valley.....

.....*H. pubescens*

4 Styles and free beaks of ovary 4-5 mm, definitely within corolla; sepals turned inward; plants of calcareous sites in southern counties.....*H. longiflora*

Heuchera americana L., common alumroot, is frequent throughout on ledges, road banks, and in rocky woods, especially west of the Ridge and Valley. It is quite variable, and hybrids with *H. pubescens* are common, often fertile, and intermediate in most characters. Such hybrids that more closely resemble *H. americana* have been called *H. a.* var. *hispida* (Pursh) E. Wells or *H. x hispida* Pursh, rough alumroot. They are distinguished from *americana* by fringed, purple petals, and a more distinctly oblique calyx with tube 1.5-2.0 mm (instead of less than 1.5 mm). *H. americana* var. *hirsuticaulis* (Wheelock) Rosend., Butt., and Lak. (also called *H. a. x hirsuticaulis* (Wheelock) Rydb.) has been collected in Nicholas Co. This is a hybrid with *H. richardsonii* R. Br., a midwestern species, and is easily recognized by the long, spreading hairs on stems and petioles. W. Va. is well east of its normal range.

Heuchera pubescens Pursh, downy alumroot, tends to replace *H. americana* in the Ridge and Valley. It is very variable. The name *H. alba* Rydb., white-flowered alumroot, has been given to plants with large, white or cream-colored flowers with petals longer than the stamens, growing on strongly acid substrates at (mostly) high

elevations draining to the South Branch of the Potomac. *H. alba* needs further study.

Heuchera longiflora Rydb., long-flowered alumroot, seems not to intergrade with other species. It is restricted to calcareous substrates in the southern mountains.

Heuchera parviflora Bartl., small-flowered alumroot, is the only eastern *Heuchera* that is not evergreen, the only one with smooth seeds, and the only one that is viscid (sticky). The capsule usually bears tiny hairs (rather than smooth as in the other species). It occurs on well-shaded sandstone ledges in the southern counties.

Heuchera villosa Michx., hairy alumroot, and *H. parviflora* are very similar in form of the flowers and are best recognized by the leaves. They do not appear to hybridize in nature. *H. villosa* occurs mostly on granite and gneiss in the southern counties. It is our only *Heuchera* with a stem that elongates somewhat, becoming more or less horizontal.

West Virginia *Heucheras* can usually be satisfactorily identified except for two problem areas: those plants more or less matching *alba*, and intermediates between *americana* and *pubescens* (including *hispidula*).

Plants labeled *H. alba* at the WVU Herbarium are a hodgepodge of pale-flowered *pubescens*-types. There may well be a group that should be segregated as a separate species or variety. Or maybe not. Someone needs to start from scratch to determine that. In her revision of the genus for eastern North America, Elizabeth Wells gave very little attention to the problem, concluding that intergradation of characters is so extensive that subdivision of *pubescens* is not justified. In a letter written to me about two years ago, Rodney Bartgis expressed the belief that some *Heuchera*'s of the South Branch Potomac headwaters

may be different enough to segregate as *H. alba* or *H. p.* var. *alba*. (Or, he said, they may even be the same as *H. p.* var. *brachyandra* of North Carolina.). He said the flowers of these plants are white, petal length seems insignificant, leaves are a bluish-green (instead of yellowish-green), and they are generally less hairy than *H. pubescens*. They prefer high-silica acid sandstones and quartzites, usually at high elevations. The plants of Panther Knob show these characteristics well, while those of Short Mountain and the South Branch are more intermediate (perhaps hybrids?). The need for research is obvious.

Designating a particular plant as *H. hispidula* sometimes seems almost arbitrary. In fact, various books disagree on characters. But if fuzziness doesn't bother you, it is possible to find plants that are "good" *hispidula*, with a longer, distinctly oblique calyx and fringed, purple petals.

WVNPS FIELD TRIPS

Contact: Romic Hughart 304/429-7358

1. **June 30-31 -Senic Highway Nature** trails-PocahontasCounty. Meet at Cranberry Visitor Center at 9:30am, then proceed to Cranberry boardwalk. For lodging call 4-Seasons Lodge - 304-846-4605, located outside Richwood on Rt. 3955, on Marlinton Rd.

2. **Sep 15-16 North Bend State Park,** Ritchie county, close to Harrisville. Will meet in main lobby of lodge at 9:30 a. m. on Sep 15. For lodging call North Bend Lodge at 304-643-2931. Mention you are with the W V Native Plant Society and reserve room in your name. Other accomodations can be found at the Heritage Inn which is located only about 4 miles away, 1 800-528-7944. Price is about the same.

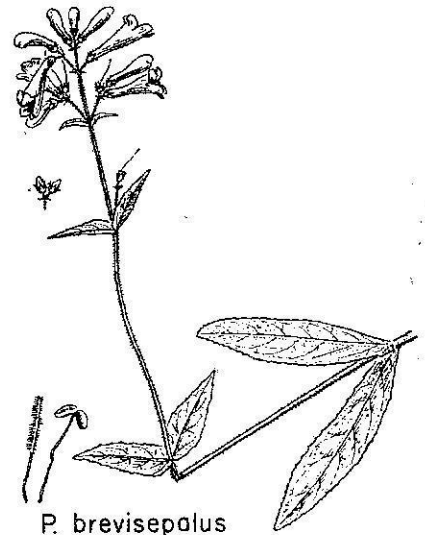
**THE KANAWHA VALLEY
CHAPTER OF THE WV
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

The KVC of the WV Native Plant Society will hold a field trip at the Glade Creek area of the New River on Saturday April 21, 2001. Plan to meet at the State Capitol/Cultural Center Parking lot at 8:30 am on that date to arrange for car-pooling. A wide variety of spring wildflowers adorn this area in close proximity to the hiking trail and many species should be in full bloom. Plan to pack a small lunch and bring water for the trip. If anyone wants to venture on there own, give Chris Gatens a call at 458-2533 for directions.

Several members of the KV Chapter will attend the Osbra Eye Memorial Wildflower Hikes at Kanawha State Forest on Saturday April 29, 2001. Registration begins at 9:00 am at the swimming pool area. It is a great event and I encourage everyone to attend.

Upcoming June Event

During the weekend of June 8 thru 9, Doug Wood and Diane Anestis are planning a tour that will focus on native plants and their involvement in natural history. Doug and Diane have decided to rent a van for the trip and the cost per person will be \$20. The group will meet early on Saturday morning (June 8) and travel south from Charleston and end up at their camp at Barger Springs on the Greenbrier River. Folks are welcome to camp or stay in the cabin on Saturday night. **PLEASE REGISTER BECAUSE TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND FEW SEATS ARE AVAILABLE!** Don't miss this one! Contact Doug or Diane at 304/755-0440.



P. brevisepalus

FIELD NOTES

By: Bill Grafton

Tipularia discolor (Cranefly orchid) at the northern limits of range in Wetzel County near corner with Greene Co. PA and on Rush Run and Trail Run in Feb. & March, 2000. Also in Preston Co. near Fortney's Mill in March 2001 by Scott Shriver, Al Shriver, Clete Smith and Bill Grafton.

Buddleja davidii (Butterflybush) escaping and spreading in Mingo and Logan Counties. Seen by Ron Fortney during Aug. 2000. Harry Wise also observed escaped plants in the Kanawha Valley.

Arisaema triphyllum ssp. *quinatum* (Indian turnip) in Cathedral S.P. and near Thornwood Pocahontas Co by Bill Grafton.

Corallorrhiza bentleyi (Bentley's Coralroot) was found at several new locations in Monroe Co. and adjoining Virginia by Stan Bentley, Doug Jolley and the Pittsburgh "ORCDNUTS". Thus, Bentley's Coralroot is no longer one of the world's rarest plants but its status as a sustainable species is much enhanced.

From Judy Dumke, via Helen Gibbins, are some neat plants found on the Tri-State Chapter's mushroom hunt in Sept., 2000. Wayne County edibles were watercress, persimmon, black elderberry, hazelnut, and pawpaw. Other interesting plants were

Eupatorium incarnatum (pink thoroughwort), *Verbesina occidentalis* (small yellow crown beard), *Penstemon brevisepalus*, *Botrychium oneidense*, and *Celastrus orbiculatus* (oriental bittersweet) *Allium burdickii* (white ramp), *Allium tricoccum* (Red ramp), and *Erythronium albidum* (White fawn lily) in moist woods along Monongahela River between Catawba and Pricketts Fort in Marion County, April 2001 by Bill Grafton.

What are the rest of you seeing?? Let us know so we can list it in FIELD NOTES.

Hike the rails! FIELD TRIP

May 27, Sunday, 1 pm.

Meet at DNR "stream access" parking lot by WV Rt. 73 about 2 miles of Morgantown. Will walk 1-2 miles along the rail trail depending on your energy and the weather. You can return to your vehicle at any point you wish. Trail surface is small gravel and easy walking.

July 15, Sunday, 1 pm. Meet at Pricketts Fort State Park parking lot below the fort and near the gift shop and boat ramps. Will walk down unimproved rail trail about 1 mile to Catawba and then return. Trail is 1-inch stone, solidly packed and moderately easy walking.

Leaders: Bill & Emily Grafton Phone: 304/292-0229

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2001

President Romie Hughart
#6 Wellsworth Garden
Huntington, WV 25704
Phone: 304/429-7358 (h)

Vice President Vacant

Recording Helen Gibbins

Secretary 6128 Gideon Road
Huntington, WV 25705
Phone: 304/736-6387 (h)

Correspond. Secretary Mary Sansom
5324 Alspine Drive
Cross Lanes, WV 25313
Phone: 304/776-7852

Treasurer Steven Mace
PO Box 122
New Haven, WV 25265
Phone: 304/882-2450

Director-at-large (99) Dan Stevenson
115 Shamrock Drive
Lavalette, WV 25535
Phone: 304/523-9553

Director-At-large (00) Lawrence Beckerle
PO Box 118
Craigsville, WV 26205
Phone: 304/458-2533

Director-At-large Richard Thompson
5710 Pinecrest Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
Phone: 304/736-8833

Newsletter Editor Emily Grafton
456 West Virginia Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26501
Phone: 304/292-0229

Past President William Grafton
456 West Virginia Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26501
Phone: 304/293-4792 x2493

President Kanawha Valley Chapter Christopher M. Gatens
Route 3, Box 130 B
Leon, WV 25123-9529
Phone: 304/458-2533

President Eastern Panhandle Chapter Lynn Wagner
Rocky Marsh Road
PO Box 1268
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
Phone: 304/876-7027

Representative of Tri-State Chapter T C Foote
713 10th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25703-2732
Phone: 304/525-4262

Allegheny Highlands Botanical Art Society (AHBAS)

By: Ann Payne

WV, PA and Ohio plant enthusiasts have formed the Allegheny Highlands Botanical Art Society. It is the second chapter of a thriving national organization, the American Society of Botanical Art. The first chapter was organized in Denver, Colorado.

Local interest in Botanical Art began to thrive due largely to botanical art classes offered by Pittsburgh's Phipps Conservancy and Garden Center. Botanical Art weds art and science, by melding technical understanding of plant structure with artistic skill.

The mission of AHBAS is to provide an educational forum for botanical artists; promote public awareness of and appreciation for botanical art; and educate the public on plant diversity, regional plant ecology and plant conservation through botanical art.

The AHBAS formational meeting was held in Pittsburgh's Hunt Botanical Institute, home of one of the world's largest botanical art collections. AHBAS will sponsor a show at Hunt of India's outstanding botanical painter, Damodar Lal Grurjar (4/26/01 through 7/31/01). In April, AHBAS members will enjoy a demonstration by Damodar and in May, a private tour of Hunt.

AHBAS members will design projects to bring public awareness to the region's plants and the importance of plant conservation. WVNPS members interested in suggesting project ideas, joining or sponsoring the work of AHBAS are encouraged to contact Ann Payne at 304/292-7673 or email her at

Mountaintop Mine Reclamation Field Trip – May 19, 9:30 AM Meet at Kizer's Corner Restaurant in Mt. Hope, WV

By: Lawrence Beckerle

I have scheduled a field trip to a mountaintop mine reclamation site. Because this form of mining is so prevalent it is important to understand the complexities of re-vegetating these sites.

At the particular site we will be visiting you will see the results of incorporating sawdust and woody materials into the reclamation efforts. Several native shrubs have been planted as well as annuals and some non-native species.

Directions: From the North or South, exit Route 19 at Glen Jean/Thurmond exit, just south of Oak Hill, WV. Turn right onto WV Rt. 16 & 61 and drive about 2.5 miles south toward Mt. Hope to Kizer's Corner Restaurant. If running late, proceed east of Mt. Hope on WV Rt. 61 toward Prince. Go 1.9 miles and turn left onto a blacktop road just after you cross an old railroad. Drive 4.3 miles to a gate on your right. Contact Lawrence at: phone: 304/742-3639. The phone on the day of the tour is 304/877-3541.

**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
COUPON**

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**



Judi White
22 Wellesley Dr.
Washington WV 26181-9665
WVNPS Paid 01