

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday, September 11, 1pm, Virginia Native Plant Society Piedmont Chapter Second Sunday Walk, Southern Fauquier County. Join Ron Hughes, Lands and Facilities Manager at C.F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area, on a stroll through rolling low hills near the Rappahannock River to observe fall flowers in the meadows. With gold selling for \$1,800 an ounce, the Phelps is worth \$ trillions. The fields are ablaze in the golds of Beggarticks (*Bidens sp.*), Goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*), Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*), Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*), and Yellow Crownbeard (*Verbesina occidentalis*).



Managed as a game bird preserve, the Phelps has many botanical treasures. In addition to wildflower meadows, there are sandy areas with some of the most delicate flowers around, like Bluecurls (*Trichostema dichotomum*) and Orangegrass (*Hypericum gentianoides*). Dry lake beds have plants we don't often see in our area: Ditch Stonecrop (*Penthorum sedoides*), Bugleweeds (*Lycopus spp.*), and a carpet of Virginia Buttonweed (*Diodia virginiana*).

Contact Cathy Mayes for more details 540-364-4525 or MayesCD@aol.com
For directions go to: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/detail.asp?pid=17>

Friday, Sept 23, 8:30am-2pm, Autumn Equinox Tree Lovers School, Fauquier County.

Carrie Blair will instruct how to identify trees by fall foliage at her house followed by a field trip nearby. Maximum 15 participants. Fee of \$20 to Carrie for the class. Bring a lunch, field guides, an ocular, and binoculars. Call Carrie at 540-364-1232 to register by Sept 10.

Sat & Sun, Oct 8-9, 9am-4:30pm, Arborfest at the State Arboretum Of Virginia, Clarke County.

This fall festival and plant sale offers fine items for home and garden. Free guided tours and children's activities. There is a donation for parking.

Sat & Sun, Oct 9, 1pm, Virginia Native Plant Society Piedmont Chapter Second Sunday Walk, Clarke County.

The second Sunday walk will be a tour of the 35 acre native grass meadow at Blandy Farm. The tour will leave from the Amphitheater 1 pm and will last about 2 hours. Look for a green and white VNPS event sign. The walk will mostly follow a gravel path that loops through the meadow, and we will also briefly visit the Rattlesnake Springs wetland area, where we will be on a boardwalk. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress for whatever weather we have that day. The fall colors in the meadow should be wonderful. Blandy Farm's Arborfest Event will be going on, and there is a donation for parking.

Thursday, Oct 20, 7-8:30pm, The Future American Landscape: Getting Off The Treadmill, Frederick County, Stimpson Auditorium, Halpin-Harrison Hall at the Shenandoah University.

Neil DiBoll, President of Prairie Nursery in Wisconsin, will speak on the benefits of native species and why natives are the logical choice for landscapes in a future world of global warming, escalating energy costs, and constrained landscape budgets.

The talk will focus on the economic and ecological problems of traditional lawns and the chemicals used to maintain them, and how native plant landscaping can be a beneficial alternative. DiBoll received his degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1978. He has since worked for the National Park Service in Virginia, the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado, and the University of Wisconsin.

In 1982, Neil began his involvement with Prairie Nursery, producing native plants and seeds and designing native landscapes. He has since devoted his efforts to championing the use of prairie plants, as well as native trees, shrubs and wetland plants, in contemporary American landscapes.

Neil's work includes designs for residential, commercial and public spaces throughout the Midwest and Northeast United States. The essence of Neil's philosophy is that we, as stewards of the planet, must work to preserve and increase the diversity of native plants and animals, with which we share our world. The protection of our natural heritage and our soil and water resources is essential to maintaining a high quality of life for today, and for the children of future generations to come.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Co-sponsors: Smithsonian Institute, Virginia Native Plant Society, Blandy Experimental Farm, Virginia Working Landscapes group.

Saturday, Oct 22, 7-8:30pm, Nature Walk, Rappahannock County.

Join naturalists Neil DiBoll, Cole Burrell, Sally Anderson, and Peter Heus for tours about the farm of Bruce and Susan Jones, near Washington, VA. Explore meadows, woodlands, and wet areas, with observations of nature through the eyes of these naturalists, who will discuss how native species can restore backyards and landscapes.

Limited space, reservation required. Fee for nature walk: \$10; fee for walk and box lunch: \$15. For reservations and location please contact: khopkins@pecva.org or bwest@pecva.org or call 540-316-9978.

Co-sponsored by: the Smithsonian Institute, the Virginia Native Plant Society, Blandy Experimental Farm and the Virginia Working Landscapes group.

ARBORFEST by Mary Craig

It's almost fall again and you know what that means? ArborFest.

Yes, we will be setting up a booth at Blandy again this October 8th and 9th. We will be asking for no more than 4 people to cover each shift; preferably 2 veterans and 2 interns. You should plan to come early or stay after your shift to do your shopping. We will be getting the information soon so I just wanted to give you a heads up.

We don't have anything to raffle off so if anyone has any ideas about how to draw people to our booth, please let me know.

JULY BOARD MEETING MINUTES by Suzanne Boag, Secretary
See [Board Meeting Minutes on NSVMGA Website](#)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Cy Haley

New Events Coordinator:

Donna Funk-Smith is our new Events Coordinator. She will be in charge of keeping a running events list updated and making sure it is posted on the NSVMGA website. If you have an upcoming event and do not see it listed under the calendar section of the website, please send the information to Donna at 2work4good@gmail.com. She will get the information to the webmaster.

Please include the date, time, and place of the event as well as the contact person for that particular event in case a member needs more information.

Also, if all County Coordinators will include Donna in their emails about their county's events that will keep her posted on all area events. I want to thank Donna for taking on this important job in our organization. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of events listed in the Calendar.

We also need to send all upcoming event notices to Lennie Mather at lennie@mris.com so she can see if it can be published in any of the local newspapers. If you have any photos of the previous year's event please include it in case she can use it.

Needed: Event Photos

We need photos posted on the website of our many and varied events. Everything of members doing their volunteer work is what we're looking for whether they are working on the help-lines in VCE offices and Farmer's Markets, working at the museum, historical homes, and libraries in the gardens, going on homeowner site visits, or at the special events like the tomato and garlic festival, county fairs, herb festival, Autumn Fest, etc., and also at any training seminars we have.

We do so much work in the communities but if we don't let people know what we're doing then it's really hard for them to understand what we actually do. Remember the old adage "A picture's worth a thousand words". So remember to take the camera with you when you're heading out to a NSVMGA event. And don't forget to write a short description so we'll know what event the photo is for.

Please send the pictures and descriptions to Eleanor Ames who is in charge of the website. You can email her at elalames@embarqmail.com. One note: not too many pictures of one event please. Just pick out a few of the best ones to send in.

Note from webmaster: Please! Don't bombard me with photos all at once:-) I will have to resize and compress to use on the website and this takes alot of time. I will try to compile and incorporate into a slide show. Description should only be a sentence.

Meeting Speakers and Meeting Spaces

If you know of someone who would be a good speaker for our monthly meetings please pass their contact information on. We hear all the time that members want interesting speakers but unless we know what and who we can't arrange for that speaker. You can send that information to any board member or County Coordinator or directly to Angie Hutchinson who is in charge of arranging speakers for the meetings. We also need suggestions for a meeting place in Frederick County.

We have a large group and it has become difficult to find a place large enough, and at no cost, to hold the meetings in Frederick County. If you know of a place please pass the information on to Angie at angelikhutchinson@comcast.net.

New Timekeeper:

We will have a new timekeeper starting next quarter. Carolyn Stonesifer will be stepping down as timekeeper and Susan Garrett will be taking over starting in September. We will send out an announcement when the switch has been made along with the contact information for Susan.

Thanks to Susan for stepping up, I know you're going to do a great job, and thanks to Carolyn for all her hard work in the past.

Remember, this is your organization and your participation can come in many forms.

Now, since we've gotten the earthquake and hurricane out of the way and if we don't get hit with tornados, monsoons, or tsunamis, we should be in for a pretty nice fall season. Hope to see everyone at the September meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Mary Craig

As of June 2011 we have 176 members; 141 have paid dues and 107 are listed as active. We seem to be expanding. In addition to our members from our five counties we now have Master Gardeners from Staunton and Marshall, VA and Summit Point, Bunker Hill, Capon Spring and Capon Bridge WV. I guess this speaks well of our outreach and we happily welcome all who want to become Master Gardeners in the northern Shenandoah Valley.

Also, for those who are new, the membership list is posted on the member's section of the webpage. If you need a phone number or address for a MG you can find it there. It is also broken out by counties for the coordinators.

FREDERICK COUNTY COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Teri Merrill

Thank you to everyone who has helped out with the Greenline and Junior Master Gardener's this month. I helped one day with the watering and teaching for the Junior Master Gardeners, and it was a total delight--kids and moms and dads and siblings who all seemed to know their way around that Kent Street garden. It was a beautiful sight to see, and hats off to both Lynn Hoffmann and Tammy Epperson at the Extension Office, who made that program a reality and a success. And for those who have given speeches or helped out with educating the public in various ways this month, thank you too for all your efforts.

With the approach of autumn comes the winding down of gardening, but also the beginning of another frenetic holiday season. I know it seems early to talk about next year, but that's exactly what we need to do as a county. Along those lines, I'm willing to be the coordinator for Frederick County for one more year, but I want to groom someone to take over for 2013 and 2014. It's so much easier if you take the time to learn the job ahead of time, instead of doing what I did--learning on the job. I'm happy to work with someone who is interested in taking it over down the road, and I think a two-year commitment is reasonable and best for the organization.

CLARKE COUNTY REPORT - Mary Craig

On Tuesday, July 12, 2011 we had a Clarke County MG Meeting at the Burwell Mill Park in Millwood. It was a very good meeting and the weather was nice in the park. Our farmers' market is going well; we have lots of questions each week about all kinds of topics. The green line is slow, but most people know we will be at the market each week and wait to ask us their questions in person.

Thanks to Nancy Specht we had a table at the Clarke County Fair again this year. We were hoping to get a booth inside the horticulture building, but those spots are expensive and hard to come by. We were outside, just across from the entrance to the building. All those that helped out said it was a good location and we had a lot of people stop by the booth.

I have had a couple of meetings with David Boyce, the Director at Longbranch. He had asked if we could decorate the house for Christmas. After a lot of discussion at our last Clarke meeting it was decided this does not fit into our educational mission. I have continued my dialogue with David and we will be pursuing some sort of educational programs for the public there in the future, possibly workshops for the public on roses or herbs.

I also met with Susi Bailey, who is heading up the Barns of Rose Hill landscaping. The building is newly refurbished and the landscape is bare. I walked the property with Susi and several other people, including the owners of Earthworks Landscaping Company, who will be providing a lot of the plants. There is a place where there are some drainage issues and it would be a perfect spot for a rain garden. They are more than happy to have signage posted about the garden to help educate the public. This would make a nice addition to our xeriscape garden.

As the summer winds down, we still have some openings to help out at our farmers' market and anyone who would like to help is welcome. It really is a lot of fun.

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG UPDATE from University of Maryland Extension

Last week I (Stanton) had 6 different frustrated gardeners send or bring pictures to me of their tomatoes, peppers and sweet corn covered with nymphs and adults of brown marmorated stink bugs. Each person was so frustrated by this bug they were ready to give up on gardening. One gardener said they went out to their garden with a wet/dry vac and vacuumed off the insects, and then dumped the canister contents down the toilet. Actually this method is not a bad idea and some innovative person could develop a small garden vacuum that gardeners could easily handle in gardens which is lightweight and powerful enough. In entomology we have large bug vacs we use in the field to collect insects, but it would

be slightly unwieldy around a vegetable garden. So, innovative thinkers, give me a call and let's talk about a cool, portable BMSB vac.

Adult stink bugs are very active and starting to show up in and around houses at this point in the summer. The best thing you can do is vacuum them up inside. This fall, Zodiac Company is supposed to have an EPA label (sometime early this fall) for an ester form of a pyrethroid that will have a label for homeowners to use inside houses for BMSB and bedbugs.

Keep in mind, even though this will kill the bugs you will still have to sweep or vacuum them up after they are dead. Why not just use a vac and vacuum them up and skip the insecticide application? Still, people seem to like to spray bugs and I am sure this product will sell well once in the marketplace.

BMSB Trials

We have set up BMSB traps at several greenhouse and nursery facilities. At each of these operations we are monitoring BMSB in high tunnels or greenhouses compared to adjacent outdoor growing areas. We will be collecting data through the fall.

BMSB: What are they feeding on?

Kim, a plant and cut flower grower from Carroll County, reported that BMSB were feeding heavily on crape myrtle trees this year. The plants that were most heavily infested were reported to be aborting blooms. The BMSB was also feeding on the seed pods. We will try to visit this site to confirm this damage. At CMREC we have observed BMSB feeding on *Hibiscus moscheutos* and other species of hibiscus. They tend to cluster on the foliage but are also found feeding on the stems. There is damage on the foliage, but it is hard to discern this damage from leafspot diseases that show up on the foliage in August. We will be setting up monitoring stations at several additional operations over the next two weeks. We would like to extend a special thanks to the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association for their financial support for this project.

Sharing Your Recipe!

TOMATO PIE from Cy Haley

1 9" deep dish pie crust
3 to 4 Medium tomatoes (thickly sliced and drained)
1 10oz package frozen chopped spinach (thawed and drained)
1/2 t Salt
Pepper to taste
1/4 C Green onions (chopped or minced)
1/2 C Mayonnaise or Miracle Whip
1 8oz package grated jack cheese or 4 cheese mix

Place pie crust in shallow dish or pie plate. Bake crust @ 425 for 5 minutes and remove from oven. Reduce oven temp to 400. Place tomatoes on pie crust then toss in the spinach along with the seasonings and green onions. Combine mayonnaise and cheese then spread this on top of pie. Bake for 35 minutes.

EDITORS CORNER by Richard Stromberg

Pleasant surprises in the garden. When the "dome of heat" finally left us in July and a little rain came to soften up the ground, I got out to the garden to pick some weeds. I like to pull by hand with help from a hand weeder. At one point, as my fingers closed on a green plant, I made myself quickly let go. "It's a cucumber or squash," I thought to myself. I remembered then that late in spring I had taken all my old seed packets to the garden and stuck seeds in open spaces along the soaker hose snaking around the garden. It is connected to a timer, so it seeps water regularly. Maybe these cucumbers will produce some fruit in September. They are flowering now. An advantage to planting cucurbits late is their pests aren't around any more.

At the same time I put those seeds in I also tried to rescue a couple native plants that were being overgrown. One was a Hardy Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) and the other, Virginia Rose (*Rosa virginiana*). The hard ground made it hard to get them out, and I didn't get much soil to adhere to the roots, but I put them in, again near the soaker hose. They didn't like it. In a week, the rose disappeared, and the mallow looked poorly.

BUT on my weeding expedition, the rose had leafed out along the ground, and the mallow was up two to three feet tall with big buds and since then has put out several saucer-sized flowers. Pleasant surprises in the garden.

By the way, how do I know it is a Virginia Rose? I didn't originally plant it. I found it in our woods. Our native roses have simple flowers, five petals and lots of stamens, not the massive, multi-petal blooms of hybrid roses. The differentiators among our several local natives are the thorns and stipules. A stipule is one of a pair of leaf-like outgrowths at the point of attachment of a leaf to a stem. Notice the stipules on the right side of the picture. The wide stipules indicate Virginia Rose rather than another of the native species.

