

For Lonnie to review, edit, distribute.

Natural Heritage Committee Draft Notes 2/2/2015 by Firehock

Manuel Lerdau UVA Professor joined group as a guest. [mleardau@virginia.edu](mailto:mleardau@virginia.edu)

Sites List: Some members suggested their sites. Devin has two sites: barrens with uncommon species, especially table mountain and pitch pines and associated communities. Mount Alto near Schuyler along the Hardware River. Barren strawberry is there.

Campbell Wetlands<sup>1</sup>, late April early May, Rivanna Bluffs below Buck Creek for di Hemlocks, loblolly, pitch pines, spleen worts. What about Buck Island site. Tom has the boundary for Campbell Wetlands and Luckstone so he can see where there might be public access. Campbell is probably accessible but not sure about Rivanna Bluffs (below mouth of Buck Island Creek near Route 53). Rivanna Bluffs could be visited most of the year so schedule is flexible.

Monticello Mountain Bluffs (visited once before). April 16<sup>th</sup> Or 17<sup>th</sup> after 3:30.

Fern Walk there, possibly some pick ladyslippers, few chestnuts, Week of May 18<sup>th</sup> or May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Saturday afternoon possibly.

Manual is teaching at Morven Farm and there is a large stand of woods that is unexplored. This could be a good site to visit. Perhaps try to arrange a visit there on a weekend for the committee and some students.

Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and Bunch Flower (*Melanthium virginicum*). Also the false azalea (*Rusty menziesia*)

Heron Rookery (Near Preddy Creek)

Base of the Dam, need permission to visit perhaps from Dan Mahone or the Water and Sewer Authority.

Preddy Creek Wetlands (three forks to turkey sag)

We practice the Black Arts. Ruth is a drunk.

Fan Mountain Site: need permission for the Calhoun sites: Late April 25 or 26nor May 2, 3?

Monticello Mountain Bluffs would be good for late March especially spring ephemerals and blood root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).

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<sup>1</sup> Campbell Wetlands 1, 2. Near Campbell, in a wooded area northwest of the railroad, is the only county occurrence of the beautiful *Polemonium reptans* (Jacob's Ladder), found along with many spring ephemerals. About 0.7 mile northeast of Campbell is a small marsh containing *Caltha palustris* (marsh marigold), *Nuphar luteum* (spatterdock), and *Carex stricta* (stool sedge). The only known occurrence in the county of *Carex shortiana* (Short's sedge) is also in this area. (USGS Quadrangle: Keswick)

Ruth's Report on Invasive Species: List is out on the web, High, med and low were categories. Now just include high and medium mostly ([http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/invspdflist.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspdflist.shtml)). Basketgrass is a newly emerging invasive, some in Shenandoah and in northern Virginia. It has sticky seeds so spread easily. Link to the state working group: [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/vaisc/](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/vaisc/)

VA Dept. of Ag and Consumer Affairs is difficult to work with <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant&pest/>. The noxious weed laws refer to what is widely disseminated when considering if something is actually noxious. Some plants such as purple loosestrife and Johnson grass are listed along with multiflora rose. There are a few plants such as beech vitex that are an issue.

English Ivy has been attempted to ban in the past but those bills failed in the legislature. Many states are ahead of Virginia. However, Virginia is working more on plant natives campaigns, first begun on the eastern shore and now work is underway to for this to expand statewide: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants.aspx> Need a campaign for buy natives. Need to work better with the Virginia Nursery and Landscapes Association. The Piedmont Natives and Landscapes Page is a great place to post pictures and we should market their locations.

Piedmont Landscape Association: <http://www.piedmontlandscape.org/home/aboutus.html>

Cooperative Weed Management Areas – a western Albemarle landowners with 1600 acres expressed interest. There are some grants with NRCS, USFS for cost share for invasive species management.

Devin Floyd, Center for Urban Habitats proposed a proffer policy. Need a process to see if a site would 'qualify' as a rescue site, e.g. large stands of something rare, perennial, herbaceous and site has ease of access, site is mature, plant is beautiful and has high quality. Have a way to flag sites that are big: look into this.