

Those of you who are familiar with the Cranefly Orchis, *Tipularia discolor*, know it is in bloom now. If you haven't seen it, there is lots of it at Hughlett Point and Hickory Hollow.

The leaves, which are green on the top and purple on the bottom disappear in the hot weather. The the flower stalks emerge from the leaf litter in late July. They are difficult to see as they blend in well with the forest duff. But when the sun catches the stems, they have a russet golden glow which is unlike any other wildflower. I think it is one of the more common varieties of orchid, yet known by few. It was blooming for years in the woods by my driveway before I noticed it. Below is a shot of one I took recently. Under that is what the leaves look like in the winter and spring.



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The **Virginia Master Naturalist Program** is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service.