



Virginia Native Plant Society  
2018 Workshop

**Branching Out**  
**Exploring Trees and**  
**Forests of Virginia**



March 10, 2018

9:15 am - 3:30 pm

Jepson Hall Auditorium  
Ryland Circle  
University of Richmond, VA 23173  
(Website Campus Map #17)

**Branching Out**

**Exploring Trees and**  
**Forests of Virginia**

It seems there have been many new books on trees in the last several years, and so the idea of a workshop focusing on trees and forests naturally followed.

It turns out that the subject is vast and choosing what to cover means leaving out many other interesting topics.

We have chosen four rather different ways to present the topic. We will begin with a review of tree biology and ecology and a review of some of the recent research on what trees are doing. In keeping with many recent workshops, we will move on to the topic of interactions with other organisms, specifically birds and insects. Finally we will explore two Virginia forests – the longleaf pine of the coastal areas, and an old age mountain forest.

Please join us for a day that celebrates the trees and woodlands that are our home.

The VNPS Workshop is being held on the University of Richmond campus.

Our venue is **Jepson Hall** (note that there are other buildings on campus named Jepson). Jepson Hall is located between Ryland Circle and Richmond Way. It is #17 on the online campus map at:

[www.richmond.edu/visit/maps/print/parking.pdf](http://www.richmond.edu/visit/maps/print/parking.pdf)

Morning refreshments and coffee provided.

**Please bring your lunch.** The university dining facilities will be closed for spring break.

Questions?  
[vnps.org@gmail.com](mailto:vnps.org@gmail.com)  
540-837-1600  
(office)  
703-434-0009  
(day of event)

VNPS Thanks the University of Richmond for hosting this event

## Workshop Program

9:15 Registration and coffee

9:45 Welcome and introduction  
Nancy Vehrs, President

**10:00 John Seiler**

### Within the Tree and Forest: Eating, Drinking, and Gossip

The forests of Virginia are some of the most diverse in the world. This talk will provide an overview of the ecophysiological factors controlling tree distribution and productivity in Virginia's forests. Some of the "most amazing" things about tree biology will be discussed ranging from carbon and water uptake to tree "communication."

11:00 Break

**11:15 Desiree Narango**

### The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening

The plants in our gardens do more than make our yards beautiful, they support tremendous biodiversity and complex food webs. The speaker will focus on research comparing how well native and nonnative trees provide food for the insect-eating Carolina Chickadee. She will also share results from her work that can help you choose which trees and shrubs best support habitat for insectivorous birds and other backyard wildlife.

**12:15 Lunch - please bring your own**  
University dining facilities are closed for Spring Break.

**1:00 Ryan Klopf**

### Old Growth Forest Ecology and Management

This presentation will examine Appalachian old-growth-forest ecology and discuss the management plan for Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve, which protects 135 acres of old growth forest.

2:00 Break

**2:15 Lytton John Musselman**

### Hulls, Hogs, Harvard, Hampton Boulevard: The ecological and historical value of the Blackwater Ecologic Preserve

The Blackwater Preserve contains one of the last intact longleaf pine communities in Virginia and is home to some of the rarest elements of the Virginia flora. It is also historic, having been studied by the eminent Harvard botanist Merritt Lyndon Fernald in the 1930s. Also of historic and archeological value are the last known remnants of the naval stores industry in Virginia including tarkels and turpentine stumps.

## The Speakers

John Seiler or "Dr. Dendro" has been a member of the faculty in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech since 1985. He earned his B.S. degrees and M.S. degree from Penn State University and his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. He has been studying trees for nearly 40 years. In 2010, he was named a University Alumni Distinguished. He answers hundreds of tree related questions submitted by the public through the free vTree app. His team has developed

award-winning multimedia tutorials, and made Virginia Tech the number one web site for tree identification.

**Desiree Narango** is a Ph.D. candidate in entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware and a research associate at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Her advisors are Doug Tallamy (University of Delaware) and Peter Marra (Smithsonian Institution). Her interests include urban ecology, plant-animal interactions, and citizen science. She has an M.S. from The Ohio State University, a B.S. from SUNY: ESF and more than 12 years' experience studying wildlife. An active birder and gardener, she enjoys getting others excited about the natural world in their own backyards.

**Ryan Klopf** is the mountain region steward and regional supervisor for the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Ryan has a B.S. from the College of William and Mary, and a Ph.D. in plant biology from Southern Illinois University.

**Lytton John Musselman** is the Mary Payne Hogan Professor of Botany at Old Dominion University and served as Chair in biological sciences. In 1984 he founded the Blackwater Ecologic Preserve in Isle of Wight County and is its manager. The Zuni Pine Barrens Natural Area Preserve was soon established on contiguous land. He has taught at several universities and biological field stations in the U.S. and at universities in the Near East. He cowrote a book with David Knepper on Chesapeake Bay plants and a 2013 guide to edible plants with Harold Wiggins.

## Registration Form

Please register before March 5  
Online registration is available

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail me a campus map [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 members

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 spouse of member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$80 non-members; includes  
1-year membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 full time student

(have ID with you)

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to VNPS

Make checks payable to VNPS

Credit payment:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail form and payment to  
VNPS Annual Workshop  
400 Blandly Farm Lane, #2  
Boyce, VA 22620

