



# Claytonia

Newsletter of the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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## Our next meeting on January 15—Helen’s visit to Iceland!

Land of steam vents, roiling mud holes, lava landscapes, glaciers, and yes, green agricultural lands. Plus a great variety of flowering plants tolerant of arctic winters. A 17-day driving tour around the rim of the island, walks to waterfalls, and snowfalls, and across lava fields yielded many photographs of buttercups, campions, daisies, lupines, ground-hugging willows, figworts, mustards, roses, and sea lavenders, among others. We even found a few orchids! And grasses, of course!



Photo by Helen Hamilton

In the foreground, buttercups and the spires of blue lupines; behind this display of wildflowers, steam rises from vents in the Icelandic landscape.

And many adventures—a visit to Leif Ericson’s home, a Saga Museum, whale-watching, rift zones, and an airplane ride to the Westman Island which underwent a five-year addition to the landscape from a long-running lava flow.

Join us for a photo-illustrated talk on the habitat, the history, the people, and the plants of Iceland, **Thursday, January 15, at 7 pm in the York County Library on Rt. 17.**

## From the President

In recent months, several state-wide issues involving native plants and their habitats have developed:

**Rock outcrop management plan, Shenandoah National Park** The deadline for public comment has passed (December 19), but earlier, John Clayton Chapter offered comments on the emerging document. The issue was the protection of native plants and communities from excessive use by foot traffic and rock rappers.

**Invasive plants** VNPS will be supporting the Fairfax County initiative to designate May 2 for a state-wide invasive plant removal. Locally, the Master Naturalists have adopted a project to remove invasive plants from public areas such as New Quarter Park, which has a massive invasion of stiltgrass and beefsteak plant.

**Coal-fired power plant in Surry** See Jan Newton’s excellent article on Page 6 about this project, which would have devastating effects on local health and habitat —use the links provided to respond. This proposal brings closer to home the devastation predicted for the construction of the coal-fired plant in Wise County.

**Toxic waste in Tennessee** (message from Williamsburg Climate Action) It will be a memorable holiday for many in Roane County, Tennessee, where a retaining wall at a TVA coal ash storage facility breached, dumping 500 million gallons of toxic waste into the Tennessee River system, engulfing 12 homes and threatening the water supply. Coal ash contains concentrated mercury and heavy metals like lead and arsenic after coal is burned.

See aerial footage of the storage pond breach in Tennessee, then ask Governor Kaine to inspect all coal plant waste storage operations and spill contingency plans here in Virginia, and to oppose any new coal plants, to keep us safe from a similar disaster here in Virginia.

[http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/coal\\_spill\\_va/](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/coal_spill_va/)

The VNPS Mission charges the Society and its chapters to further the conservation of Virginia’s native plants and habitats through programs that emphasize protection of endangered species, and habitat preservation (from *The Bulletin*, Winter 2008). That means that we, as individuals, have a responsibility to speak out on issues that affect not only our own physical health, but the health of native habitats. Please contact our legislators— they need to hear from us, their constituents, when health, livelihood and Virginia’s landscape is affected by their actions.

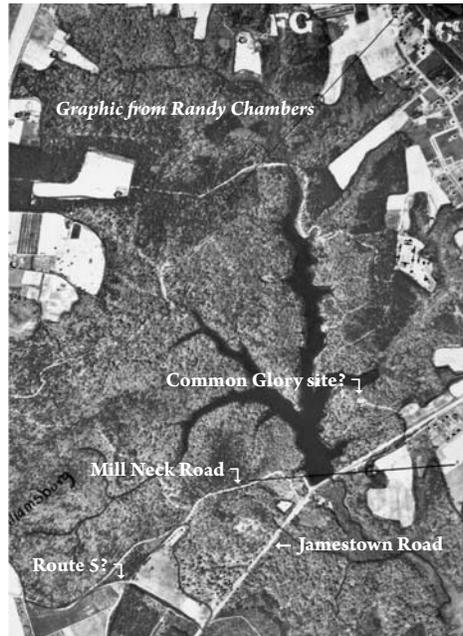
**Helen Hamilton**

### Watershed issues were the topic of the November meeting

Randy Chambers spoke on watershed management and related issues at the John Clayton Chapter’s November meeting. Randy is William and Mary’s C.B. Talbot Associate Professor of Biology and the Director of the Keck Environmental Lab. He specializes in wetland geochemistry, *Phragmites*, and turtles. His talk began with an overview of the local watersheds; Williamsburg is on the divide between the York and James River watersheds.

He spoke at some length about the status of Lake Matoaka. The good news is that there are non-parasitic lampreys in streams on the west side of the lake, which are indicators of pristine streams. There are also gar living in the lake, and mink in the woods surrounding it. There were two otters, too, but they were both hit by cars

while crossing Jamestown Road to fish in the outfall. The (other) bad news is that algal blooms are common and increasing. According to Randy, the lake has a “dead zone” below the depth of 2 meters during the summer. A group of



This aerial photograph of Lake Matoaka and its watershed was taken in 1934, when development around it was modest. Probably few of us have seen it in this relatively pristine condition. *[I have guessed at the identity of some features, and would love to hear from anyone who recognizes others. (Ed.)]*

College students, the “College Creek Alliance,” is doing sampling (with Randy’s help) of the tributaries to help track changes. Changes? What changes? Randy discussed the impacts of development on the creek, lake, and other surface waters in the local area. Commonly-used (and required) erosion and sedimentation control measures like silt fences always collapse if there is a significant rainfall during construction, letting large quantities of silt and sediment flow downstream into surface waters, which is very harmful to them as habitats. New Town, which is 70% impervious surface, has increased flow into downstream waters, scouring streambeds with the sheer force of its volume. One result is that the floodplain becomes drier, due to the deepening of the channel and water table.

A grad student working with Randy and Dr. Greg Hancock tested the performance of “Best Management Practice”



Here is a more recent photo of a portion of College Creek, littered with humans’ trash.

(“BMP”) sedimentation basins for stormwater runoff control. The most common method of calculating the required capacity of a constructed sedimentation basin (called the “kerplunk” method), it turns out, underestimates the actual needed capacity by a factor of 2. The water quality downstream, as a

result, is much worse than the design standards predicted it would be; macroinvertebrates are almost nonexistent (except in ponds).

[I have personally seen one meter of raging water in Mill Creek during a big storm. Trying to cross it on a log, my husband fell in. When we got home, I measured the depth, allowing for absorption uptake (approximately  $1\text{cm} * t^2$ ).]

**Kathi Mestayer**

## Williamsburg tree walk on November 1

On a beautiful Fall day, Phillip Merritt led a tree walk which began at the Ellipse Garden at the Williamsburg Library and included looks at trees along Armistead Avenue, on the College campus, Merchant's Square and the streets of Colonial Williamsburg. Most deciduous trees are decked out in their finest autumn colors at this time of year, so we were treated to some beautiful foliage!



Our group pauses under a large American elm on campus near Ewell Hall.

Near the Library we saw eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*).

As we walked along Armistead Avenue, we passed examples of osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*).

William and Mary's campus probably provided us with the largest number of species on the walk: numerous American beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*), at least five species of oak—water oak (*Quercus nigra*), scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), white oak (*Quercus alba*) and northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)—American elm (*Ulmus americana*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and American sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*).

On Merchant's Square and in Colonial Williamsburg we saw fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), Washington

hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*), Spanish oak (*Quercus falcata*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*), yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*), pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*).



Two allées (well, *half* of each one)—the first, of catalpas, on the green in front of the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg; and a beech allée lining a brick walk behind the Wren Building.

**Louise Menges**

## Identifying trees on Jamestown Island

Helen Hamilton led an enjoyable walk on Sunday, December 14, at Jamestown Island. The weather was beautiful—almost warm enough to do without a coat, though it was a little chilly by the end. About 15 people showed up, including, of course, Dorothy Whitfield—do you ever miss a plant walk, Dorothy?



Helen points out a male red cedar; behind her are Tess Matteson and Jane Frigo.

was obvious with its white and brown mottled bark, and the light-colored bark of the white oak is pretty distinctive as well. Helen pointed out that another good way to identify a tree is to look on the ground for clues. Some of the things we found were pecan shells and golfball-sized dark brown fruits under a black walnut.

Identifying trees in winter is often a challenge. You have to look carefully at branching patterns. Are the tree branches alternate or opposite? Bark can be helpful too. The sycamore we saw

Something else we occasionally came across were bunches of rachises on the ground under a bare tree. What is a rachis? They're the central stalk of a compound leaf that the leaflets are attached to. Knowing a tree has compound leaves narrows the field of possibilities quite a bit, and if the tree has opposite branching you know you have an ash tree, like the one we found.



Box elder foliage, in a photo taken earlier in the year.

Towards the end of the walk Helen put everyone to the test identifying a mystery tree with green stems, tri-foliolate leaves that looked something like poison ivy, and winged seeds that hung in pairs. After much

head-scratching by the group, Helen identified it as a box elder (*Acer negundo*). Box elders are lowland trees that like moist soil, are weak-wooded, and a bit weedy in character. They're kind of interesting because although they are in the maple family, and have the typical maple samaras (winged seeds) they don't look anything like a maple!

A couple of the oaks gave Helen problems. Unlike some trees, oaks can be a little promiscuous, leading to hybrid leaves that have characteristics of two different species. Some of the oaks we saw were cherrybark oak, white oak, willow oak, and a possible black oak hybrid.

Other trees we came across on the island were silver maple, persimmon, sweetbay magnolia, and eastern red cedar. There was also a nice planting of switchgrass by the Visitor's Center. If you have a chance to visit Jamestown Island, ask to see the plant book that Helen put together—there's a copy at the front desk. Many trees have been marked with round metal tags, though some have been removed by woodpeckers, kids and other creatures attracted to bright shiny objects. Many thanks to the National Park Service and Jamestown Island for letting us visit—the views of the river were beautiful!

**Phillip Merritt**

### **Fieldtrips to Great Falls National Park and Barcroft Magnolia Bog in September**

I wanted to share with you some of the "finds" during fieldtrips to the Great Falls National Park and the Barcroft Magnolia Bog that took place during the VNPS annual meeting back in September 2008.

Great Falls National Park is located in Great Falls, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. If you have never been there, I highly recommend a trip! My desire was to look for native plants along a rock-filled stream. Well, how about a river with boulders and waterfalls! That's what I got and it was fantastic! In addition, one can't go wrong when choosing a fieldtrip led by Gary Fleming (vegetation ecologist), Chris Fleming (field ecologist), and Tony Fleming (geologist)! Learning about plants and the geological relationship to their habitats was a treat and quite interesting. We explored the Piedmont/Central Appalachian Riverside Outcrop Prairie and the Potomac Gorge Riverside Outcrop Barrens, as well as some of the nearby woodland. Blooming on the Riverside Outcrop Barren was one of the states rarest plants—rock goldenrod (*Solidago racemosa*), growing in the crevices of rocks that contain a bit of soil. Also in bloom were late purple aster (*Symphyotrichum patens*) with its rough, clasping leaves, tall coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*), late thoroughwort (*Eupatorium serotinum*), stiff aster (*Ionactis linariifolius*), and purple gerardia/purple false foxglove (*Agalinis purpurea*). This time of year the yellow flowers of Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) were especially beautiful as they were contrasted by the red and blue hues of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*).

In the woodland area dried pods of hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) and of hop hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), the fruits of hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) and arrowwood viburnum (*V. dentatum*), the short, evergreen needles and small cones of Virginia scrub pine (*Pinus virginiana*), as well as the white blossoms of snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*) all caught my eye. Also of interest was Bosc's panicgrass (*Dichanthelium boscii*) which looks similar to Japanese stiltgrass to an untrained eye.

The Mather Gorge Formation contains mystery rock, or "suspect" rock as Tony referred to it. The swirling folds and major event markings of this rock and terrain do not match any of the rocks and terrain in the surrounding region. The suspect rocks could be from the Precambrian Period and are sometimes referred to as "orphans", possibly from another continent! In this area the white spikes of Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), the dainty white flowers of flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), and a significant amount of seed-bearing blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*) were surviving the sunny, rocky habitat. (Perhaps a return trip in May is warranted in order to see all that *Baptisia* in bloom!)

Much boneset (*Eupatorium sp.*) was blooming on the rocky shoreline scour zone, as well as an occasional halberdleaf rosemallow (*Hibiscus laevis*). In the riverside scour woodland the bright yellow blossoms of a single riverside goldenrod (*Solidago rupestris*) were guarded from our enthusiastic ap-

proaches as Chris didn't want us to step on this single specimen of this state-rare plant. As we finished the trip along an open trail, meadows of blooming wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) bid us farewell.

Barcroft Magnolia Bog, located in Arlington, is the area's most significant natural plant community. Magnolia bogs, also called fens, are globally-rare (G1) wetlands that consist of wooded seeps, ferns, sedges, blueberries and viburnums. They are often at the bottom of a terrace gravel forest. Upon entering the bog area our leader, Arlington County chief naturalist Greg Zell, pointed out primrose-leaved violet (*Viola primulifolia*) and various ferns and sedges. We were soon cautioned as a poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*) was identified. Poison sumacs, along with skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), are plants that are also associated with magnolia bogs. In fact, in the path of a seep, skunk cabbages were emerging, perhaps making their second debut of the year. Fruiting arrowwood viburnum (*V. dentatum*) was scattered throughout the area, as was spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*). As we ventured upland in the terrace gravel forest, we could see the seeps of water trickling out of the hillside. In this area ferns, including N.Y. (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), southern lady (*Athyrium filix-femina*; *A. asplenoides*), and cinnamon (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), were growing along with liverwort (*Hepatica americana*), dittany (*Cunila origanoides*), and horsebalm (*Collinsonia serotina*). The ridge of the hill was home to a blooming upland boneset (*Eupatorium sessilifolium*). While traversing down the drier side of the hill, we saw blooming silver rod (*Solidago bicolor*), tick-trefoil (*Desmodium canescens*) and yellow pimpernel, as well as fruiting swamp-haw (*Viburnum nudum*). As we worked our way out of the bog area, orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) was thriving and blooming profusely, serving as a nice finale to a weekend of native plants, education and good company. Many thanks to the Potowmack Chapter for organizing and hosting a wonderful annual meeting.

**Jan Newton**

(You can view Jan's photos from this fieldtrip on our website at [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org)—look in Chapter News.)

### Cynthia sows seeds

*"Behold, a sower went forth to sow ... some seeds fell by the wayside ... some fell upon stony places ... some fell among thorns ... but others fell upon good ground, and brought forth fruit."*

Matthew 13:3



Photo by Shirley Devan

Cynthia and Bob Long work on the quail habitat.

My Clayton friends know I am a nut for collecting and planting seeds. Please join me in this important activity in collecting, planting, and harvesting—not just seeds of plants, but seeds of friendship as well.

Our quail habitat at New Quarter Park is on its way to fruition. There has been a multiple symbiosis of energy and resources among many groups: John Clayton Chapter, Williamsburg Bird Club, Master Naturalists, York County, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, Master Gardeners, the Wildflower Rescue Team, and spontaneous volunteers.



The entire Newton family—Jan, Callie and Jim—pitched in at New Quarter Park on October 25.

York County began by "rounding up" the existing fescue, followed by a shallow tilling. Soil and Water men planted a commercial mix of black-eyed Susan, partridge pea, and *Coreopsis tinctoria*, the most recommended seeds for quail. Volunteers followed up with a sowing of collected native seeds from our members and more than 100 native plants in pots from our own gardens, Melissa's Meadow, and Stonehouse Habitat. A subsequent planting of collected "wildflower hay" was made in early December by more volunteers. These species will attract insects which are eaten by young quail.

A gentle rain fell shortly after planting, and in mid-December we are seeing seedlings everywhere.

Please continue to harvest your native plant seeds; we hope to expand the area in the spring. I distributed small packets of collected wildflower seeds at a neighborhood celebration last summer. JCC shared a table with the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation Board. When I met the men on planting day this fall, Brian said, "I remember you—you gave me a packet of seeds!"

*... and some fell on good ground, and brought forth fruit.*

**Cynthia Long**

## Coal-fired power plant planned for our backyards!

*A number of our members have been alarmed by news of plans for a new coal-fired power plant in Surry; following is a statement written by Jan Newton.*

The Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) is in the process of planning a coal-fired power plant in Surry County. I attended an open house about this “clean-coal” plant on December 11 and was not happy with what I found out. In summary, operation of the proposed coal-fired power plant, called Cypress Creek Power Station, will increase pollution, increase health problems, add to global warming and endanger wildlife habitats and the species that live there. The preferred site for the plant is next to the town of Dendron on an area that contains much wetlands, including part of Black Swamp and the bordering land of Cypress Creek. ODEC claims that they would locate their buildings and smoke stacks so that minimal disturbance would occur to the wetlands. However, when one builds a building with parking lot and other non-permeable surfaces, the damage caused by erosion and lack of absorption and filtration would be significant, not to mention the damage caused by pollution from the coal plant. In addition the plant would require up to 18 million gallons of water a day to be withdrawn from the James River via a 7 mile pipe line for intake and another to return the heated water to the James. One wonders what effects this heated water would have on aquatic life in the river.

With regards to pollution, air-borne pollution from coal-fired power plants (sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and mercury) travels up to 600 miles from its source. So not only would this plant affect Surry County but it would also affect homes in James City County and Williamsburg. My family and others in this area are already at risk for health and environmental problems from existing coal plants and the plant currently under construction in Wise County, Virginia. But, if this plant is built, we will have up to three times that pollution right here in our own backyards. We also get pollution from the Yorktown, Chesterfield, Bremobluff and Chesapeake coal plants, but I will refer to the Wise County coal plant in this article, as I am familiar with many of its hazards.

Burning coal releases more carbon dioxide, mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide than any other fuel source. Currently carbon dioxide accounts for 84% of all US greenhouse gas emissions, and the burning of coal is the single largest contributor to global warming. The Wise County coal plant, called the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center, also claims to be a “clean coal” plant and, yet, it will emit more than 5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. This proposed Surry plant, being three times as large, would release way more carbon dioxide than that.

I’ve heard first hand from residents of Wise County about the effects of burning coal on their health and how it is ruining

their communities, economically, emotionally, and visually. There is a thick layer of coal dust and other pollutants on their cars, houses, sidewalks, and playground equipment every day. They experience torn-up roads and coal dust pollution from the trucks transporting the coal. They have experienced an increase in cancer, asthma and other repertory diseases. They live with the daily blowing up of mountain tops and strip mining as it destroys our mountains to uncover the coal needed for these plants. One-quarter of the mountains in Wise County, Virginia have already been destroyed by mountain top removal and strip mining. This will only worsen as this proposed Surry coal plant plans to use mostly Appalachian coal. Not only does mountain top removal blow up the tops of mountains, but it also fills up and destroys the valleys with the earth and debris from the mountain top and destroys the wildlife habitats and species of plants and animals that lived there.

As long as coal plants emit carbon dioxide, mercury, sulfur dioxide and small particulate matter there is and will be no such thing as “clean” coal. We owe it to ourselves, our children and our grandchildren to take care of our wonderful mountains, rivers, streams, forests, plant and animal life, and PEOPLE of this fine state, not destroy them by burning dirty coal and causing more health problems, pollution, and devastation.

We need to urge ODEC to utilize clean, renewable sources of energy and to concentrate on energy efficiency and conservation. I urge all of you to join the efforts to stop this proposed coal plant from being built. We need to halt the plans before they get approved. We need to write letters to ODEC, the newspapers and to our legislators.

Please contact Tommy Norment and let him know that we do not want a coal plant built in Surry County or anywhere near our homes. Based on his past record, he will likely support any legislation that comes his way that states the proposed coal plant in Surry was in the public best interest. This is the tactic that made opposing the plant in Wise County so difficult. (Norment is on the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee which is the one that votes on all utility related legislation.) Here is his contact info: Senator Tommy Norment, PO Box 6205, Williamsburg, 23188; 757-259-7810.

For more information about burning coal and its hazards visit [www.williamsburgclimate.org](http://www.williamsburgclimate.org), [www.samsva.org](http://www.samsva.org), [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org), [www.thisisreality.org](http://www.thisisreality.org), [www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org](http://www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org).

**Jan Newton**

## A few New Year’s thoughts from MHB...

**1809, February 12:** 200 years ago Charles Darwin was born. Fifty years later he published *The Origin of Species*. There is too much to say, but one thing Darwin did that you can do, too: keep notebooks. The lovely desk calendar, too pretty for cataloging haircuts and promised cupcakes can last many years as a nature diary.

This year I begin a sequel to the 1992 calendar to which observations have been added these sixteen years. Flights of swans, courtship of vultures, lupine leaves, first daffodil, violets blooming January 8, 1997, wrens bringing nesting material into the kitchen—February 16, 1999. And so on... I put the year date in the day-space, then observation, and try to save space for years to come. Entries are brief; not much discipline is required.

You will find some things “jump around”—they are temperature dependent. Others are quite regular—they are light dependent. Probably, those latter will be the most challenged by climate change. So you can build your own almanac/nature calendar to record delights and to be able to say “we usually see pink ladyslippers about the third week in April.”

Other people keep other sorts of notebooks. If your family does not want your notebook, someday, perhaps “WILLI” (Herbarium of the College of William and Mary) will. Stick your address label inside to help lost notebooks find a way home.

**Ready Bags:** It was the late Joyce Russell from Northern Neck who first gave me a name for that kit of things handy in wild-walking: notebook, pen, a few paper towels, flagging, sharpie pen, seed envelopes, camera, plastic bags in various sizes, snack and/or lunch, water, whistle, matches, flashlight, bandana, knife. The list is individual, the concept universal. When a chance comes to head into the woods, swamps, or fields, have your Ready Bag!

Swamps, by the way, are defined, more or less, as wooded wetlands. Oh, you’ve played there all your life, right? All winter there are green leaves, red and blue berries, rosettes of shining cardinal flower leaves, golden ragwort, and others, and no bugs! By February alder and spicebush, skunk cabbage and perhaps other things are blooming. Go see!

Which leads to the matter of field trips and evening meetings and other John Clayton stuff. Don’t miss things! Here’s how: when *Claytonia* arrives, transfer the dates to your calendar. Check your local papers and the website [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org) for late breaking trips that didn’t make it into *Claytonia*. If you don’t drive at night, invite (ask?) a younger friend or neighbor to drive you.

“**Nature**” – Going soon from a location near you—see it now! And we want to see nature and you!

A bright unspoiled year! Like fresh ground to plant and watch for nature’s wonders. How will it bloom for you?

Until you see the earth, you are like a seed that has not found ground and cannot grow.

Mary Hyde Berg

## Winter greenery: Christmas fern



One of the very few ferns which retain their green leaves all winter, Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) is easily recognized by its dagger-like leathery leaves (fronds), which are often used in floral arrangements. Children like to be reminded that the individual leaflets (pinnae) have the shape of Santa’s boot, and they are sometimes told that is the reason for the common name. Actually,

it was the New England settlers’ use of this fern for Christmas decorations that resulted in this common name.

Christmas fern grows in circular, arching clumps from a central rootstock, preferring partial shade in moist, acidic, well-drained soil. However, this plant grows well in most conditions with little maintenance and tolerates drought, heat, and poor soil. It serves as a good border plant, or as a backdrop for smaller plants in a shade garden.

As with all ferns, Christmas fern reproduces by alternation of generations. The spores are seen on the undersurface of smaller pinnae toward the end of the frond. The spores germinate to form tiny sexually-reproducing leafless plant bodies, almost invisible on the moist forest floor. New growth develops when male and female portions unite to produce the familiar bouquet of shiny evergreen fronds.

American Indians used the roots to make a tea for chills, fevers, stomachaches and pneumonia.

Helen Hamilton

## From the Membership Chair... Should we have a chapter membership directory?

Would you find it useful to have a chapter membership directory which listed name, address, telephone number and email address of each member and a list of officers? Some VNPS chapters have a directory, and it has been suggested that we consider the idea. If the directory is published, we would make it available only to chapter members whose information is included. ***The information would not be on the chapter website or distributed in any way outside the chapter.***

The JCC Board would appreciate your input on this decision, so please let us know if you **would** or **would not** want to be included.

Contact **Patti Gray, Membership Chair**

([Patriciagray67@juno.com](mailto:Patriciagray67@juno.com), 757/645-4164 or by mail at 107 John Tyler Lane, Williamsburg VA 23185).

Patti Gray

## Calendar

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- Thursday, Jan. 15** **7 pm: John Clayton Chapter meeting at York County Library on Rt. 17 in Yorktown:**  
Helen Hamilton will talk about her trip to Iceland and regale us with photos of the landscape and the many flowering plants she saw there. *(See Page 1.)*
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- Saturday, Feb. 28** **9 am–about 2 pm: Big Tree Drive Around in Hampton and Newport News:** Meet at the Virginia Living Museum parking lot at 9 am for a tour of champion trees, led by the “Big Tree Guy” Byron Carmean. The National Champion Swamp Bay tree is near the Christopher Newport Campus; others are at Hampton University, Fort Monroe, Fort Eustis, and some are on private property. We will do lunch at a local restaurant, or bring your own if you prefer.  
*Call Mary Hyde Berg at 804/693-3568 to register.*
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- Saturday, Mar. 14** **Horticultural Extravaganza at York High School:** John Clayton Chapter will have a display on drought tolerant plants and will be offering for a donation the USFWS publication “Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping”. Exhibits will be ongoing all day, with 3 classes in the morning, lunch, and a forum in the afternoon with Kathy Van Mullekom.  
*Watch local newspapers for registration information.*
- 
- Thursday, Mar. 19** **7 pm: John Clayton Chapter meeting at York County Library on Rt. 17 in Yorktown:**  
**Workshop on the Origins and Meaning of Botanical Names of Native Plants**, led by Lee Bristow and Donna Ware.  
*More details in the next Claytonia!*
- 
- Saturday, Mar. 28** **23rd Annual Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Plant Sale at the National Arboretum**  
This year’s symposium, “Native Plants: In Design”, features an exciting group of speakers who will present an array of topics related to designing landscapes with native plants. The annual Native Plant Sale will run concurrently, featuring a collection of local native plant nurseries offering an extensive selection of plants.  
Registration information will be available in January 2009 at [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov).  
*(For more info, contact Lindsay Hicks at 202/245-5898 or [lindsay.hicks@ars.usda.gov](mailto:lindsay.hicks@ars.usda.gov).)*

**Membership Form for VNPS** (Place checks in the boxes below next to your selections.)

Yes, I want to  **join**  **renew my membership in** the John Clayton Chapter.

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
email	Phone	

**Membership dues**

Individual (\$30)  Family (\$40)  Patron (\$50)  Sustaining (\$100)  Life (\$500)

Student (\$15)  Associate (\$40) —for groups who designate one person as delegate

I wish to make an additional contribution in the amount of \$   to VNPS  to John Clayton Chapter

This is a gift membership; please include a card with my name as donor.

I have  time  a little time  no time to help with activities.

I do not wish to be listed in a chapter directory.

*Please Note:* John Clayton Chapter does not distribute any of our membership information to other organizations.  
It is used only by the officers and chairpersons of our chapter.

Make your check payable to VNPS and mail to: VNPS Membership Chair  
400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2  
Boyce, VA 22610