



# Claytonia

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

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## March 19 membership meeting topic: “What’s in a Name?”

The Rue Anemone is a favorite early spring wildflower. Depending which manual you check, you may find two different scientific names for this delightful species: *Anemone thalictroides* (L.) Spach and *Thalictrum thalictroides* (L.) Eames & Boivin. How can this be? Isn’t a species supposed to have only one valid scientific name? And why do those names of people follow the Latin names? We know that “L.” is shorthand for “Linnaeus”, but why is Linnaeus’ name inside parentheses? What is the origin of the name “Thalictrum”? And what does “thalictroides” mean?



Photo by Will Stuart on Flickr

Learn the answers to these questions and delve into other mysteries of the process of giving valid scientific names to plant species and the meanings and pronunciation of frequently used Latin names at the March membership meeting of the John Clayton Chapter. This meeting will be held at the York Co. Library on U.S. Rt. 17 at Battle Road (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.). Latin scholar Lee Bristow and plant taxonomist Donna Ware will present the program, which will be moderated by Clayton Chapter President Helen Hamilton. Please come and bring your questions about **PLANT NAMES!**

**Donna Ware**

## From the President

We have several dates set for a display table featuring native plants, all excellent opportunities to provide information and interest the public in our chapter:

- ☘ March 14 Horticultural Extravaganza at York High School
- ☘ April 18 Earth Day at Waller Mill Park
- ☘ June 20 Williamsburg Farmers Market

Additionally, talks are being presented about gardening with natives through the Christopher Wren Association, the Williamsburg Area Learning Tree, several local gardening clubs, and the Williamsburg Climate Action Network.

Phillip has sent an ambitious field trip schedule, and our March chapter meeting with Donna Ware and Lee Bristow will answer a lot of questions about plant naming procedures, pronunciation, meanings, origins, etc. We are considering an Invasive Plant Removal Project, to start May 2, the date VNPS has designated for this event.

VNPS has scheduled some great field trips: May 3 to Crows Nest, May 10–16 to various locations in southwest Virginia, and June 6–13, to Canada’s Bruce Peninsula.

Outreach and education are two of our primary goals. We should look for and accept any and all opportunities to point gardeners towards native plant installations. At a recent VNPS meeting, Vice-President Nicky Staunton voiced concern about the lack of native plant landscapers, and the frustrations of our listeners who are quite willing to use native plants, but cannot find them locally and have little experience with proper placement.

When we find a source for native plants, landscapers and nurserymen who work with natives, this information should be available to our “clients”, and we need to keep talking with local nurseries. Let’s find ways to step up our program of educating the public and finding sources for native plants. Of course, our plant sale on April 25 is the first recommendation!

**Helen Hamilton**

## Some new members...

We welcome **Lynn Allison**, **Alfred Davidoff**, **Ken Jenkins**, **Catherine Lim**, **Jeanette Navia**, and **Kelly Place** of Williamsburg; **Karen Hendrix** of White Marsh; **Ann M. Moore** of Hampton; **Margaret Ware** of Richmond, and **Charlene Talcott** of Lancaster!

## Wanted: a few (or many!) good noses



Sweet Pinesap, in a photo by R. H. Wiegang on the *Endangered Plants of Maryland* website.

The delightful early-flowering species known as Sweet Pinesap or Pigmy-Pipes (*Monotropa odorata*) was recently featured by Helen Hamilton in one of her newspaper columns about wildflowers. To review: this species is a close relative of Indian Pipes (*Monotropa uniflora*), with which many are familiar. Sweet Pinesap, like Indian Pipes, is a parasite on soil fungi, but differs in having several flowers instead of one, being purple or brownish-

purple, strongly fragrant, and with fused petals and a nodding berry instead of an erect dry capsule. Its habitat ranges from dry to moderately moist uplands, including bluffs, particularly where other members of the heath family (e.g. huckleberries and blueberries) dominate the shrub layer. It tends to lie hidden beneath leaf litter, and botanists sometimes find it after first being attracted by its fragrance. In the 8th edition of *Gray's Manual of Botany*, Dr. Fernald described it as "deliciously aromatic". Some say it smells like violets; others liken its fragrance to that of cinnamon, cloves, or nutmeg.

William and Mary botanists E. J. and Eileen Grimes must have been blessed with keen noses, for they reported this species as "Frequent, in flat oak woods of James City Co. Flowering Feb. 28 through March, 1921. Usually concealed by fallen leaves." (*The Flora of the Peninsula of Virginia*, 1924). However, during forty years of botanizing on the Peninsula (since 1968), I have seen Sweet Pinesap only three times: once in the College Woods and twice in the Grove Creek watershed. Dr. J. T. Baldwin knew it from one spot along the Colonial Parkway. It is currently on the Virginia Plant Watchlist (S3).

Has Sweet Pinesap become rarer than in 1921? Or have I failed to check dry oak woods early enough in the season? Or can I place the blame on my "blunt nose" (perhaps due to too much exposure to moth balls during the many

years I worked in herbaria)? I am calling on all sharp noses out there to hone in on the "deliciously fragrant" Sweet Pinesap while traversing forested uplands this spring. If unsuccessful this spring, you will have another opportunity in the fall. Sweet Pinesap has two reproductive strains, the early-flowering one already discussed and another that flowers in October-November.

P.S. Caution: like Sweet Pinesap, the "plain" Pinesap (*Hypopitys monotropa*; *Monotropa hypopitys* [synonym]) also has several flowers in its inflorescence. However, its spring colors range from yellow to orange (not purplish), and its flowers are not so strongly fragrant. It also flowers later (May-October), so you shouldn't encounter it in the early spring while searching for Sweet Pinesap.

Donna Ware

## JCC/VNPS Sponsors Student Travel Award for Attendance at National Plant Systematics Symposium

The John Clayton Chapter of VNPS provided Patricia Lu-Irving, a graduate student in the Biology Department at the University of Washington, a travel award (\$300) to assist her attendance at the Annual Plant Systematics Symposium in St. Louis last October. The topic of the symposium was the effects of climate change on species distributions and the efforts toward conservation of habitats in Africa and Madagascar. The focus of Ms. Lu-Irving's graduate research is the *Lantana-Lippia* complex, a group of about 400 species within the Verbena family that are primarily New World in distribution, but includes many native African species. She is particularly interested in studying the mechanisms behind historical range shifts and expansions and how changes in distribution have affected speciation. The Symposium was very relevant to her research and provided a valuable opportunity for her to connect with botanists working in Africa.

The John Clayton Chapter underwrites one of the three Symposium travel awards given each year in memory of Dr. Delzie Demaree, an avid field botanist from Arkansas who was a stalwart supporter of the Symposium and a mentor of mine when I was in college and graduate school. Some years a student from Virginia receives this travel award, but there were no Virginia applicants in 2008.

Donna Ware

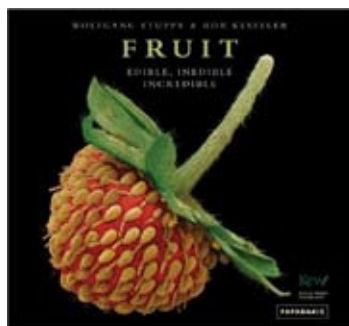
## Pawpaws Getting Press!

Recently, I had the opportunity to help publicize one of our great little native trees, the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). Pawpaw was chosen as the February plant of the month by *Groundwork*, the magazine of the Landscape Contractors Association. In the magazine, an informative article by Samuel Seo uses several of my photos from *claytonsnatives* ([www.flickr.com/photos/claytonsnatives](http://www.flickr.com/photos/claytonsnatives)) and discusses the rediscovery of pawpaw fruit by modern gardeners and techniques for growing it successfully. Have you ever tasted a pawpaw? They can be a bit hit and miss, but sometimes they're very good. I made pawpaw ice cream once—my friends weren't that impressed, but I liked it!



A pawpaw in fruit.

I was also excited to get another of my pawpaw pictures published in a gorgeous coffee table book, *Fruit, Edible, Inedible, Incredible*, by Wolfgang Stuppy & Rob Kessler, published in collaboration with Kew Gardens. The picture



is included in the section: *Anachronistic Fruits*. This part of the book discusses why some fruits in North America seem to have no apparent natural dispersers. The theory, first put forth by Dan Janzen and Paul Martin, postulates that many New World trees have fruits adapted to dispersal by the long-lost animals of the Ice Age. Now that you mention it, what did animals like American horses, camels, mastodons and mammoths, giant sloths and other huge mammals eat? The most obvious sign of an anachronistic fruit is a tree with lots of fruits sitting under it, rotting away uneaten. Sound familiar? Maybe you've noticed this with pawpaw, persimmon trees, honeylocust, and osage orange. The theory hasn't been proven conclusively, but it seems reasonable: those critters had to eat something!



Pawpaw's lovely maroon blossoms.

It's been great getting the word out on pawpaws and other native plants through *claytonsnatives*. So far pictures of various plants have been used for a book on Cypridium, a couple of non-profit websites, a brochure on invasive plants by the City of Chicago's Department of Environment, and a video installation at a Chickasaw Nation cultural center (that one actually *paid* me!). I'm looking forward to posting more pictures from our upcoming spring plant walks—hope you take a look!

**Phillip Merritt**

## How doth your garden grow?

In December, Phillip Merritt started a blog he named *How it Grows: Landscapes and Gardening in and around Williamsburg, Virginia*, where he has posted a lot of really interesting stuff!



The *Magnolia acuminata* near Colonial Heights in winter.

For instance, you can read an account of his field trip to Colonial Heights to take photos of a huge old cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*), and watch a fascinating *video* he has made about 2009's Wildflower of the Year, skunk cabbage.

... And there are at least a dozen other interesting plant-related topics on Phillip's blog; you can check it out at [www.howitgrows.com](http://www.howitgrows.com).

**Louise Menges**



One look at its seed pods tells you how the tree came to be called "cucumber" magnolia!

Reminder: Web and email addresses shown in **red** are active links.

## The 2009 Plant Sale is coming!

John Clayton Chapter VNPS and Master Gardeners will again host a joint plant sale. For us it is a very important event. This is the main source of funding for our programs, scholarships and Nature Camp. It is also a great way for all of us to meet and share our knowledge of native plants with the public.

When: **Saturday, April 25**

**Open to the public from noon–4pm**

Where: **Williamsburg Community Building  
401 North Boundary Street  
Williamsburg VA**

### How you can help:

- ★ Host a potting party in late March or early April. Call Lucile Kossodo (757)565-0769 to let her know when you can host this event.
- ★ Attend a potting party and help us plant and label the pots. See below for parties already planned.
- ★ If you have extra native plants and need help getting it into pots, please call Joan Etchberger (757)566-1884 or Lucile Kossodo (757)565-0769.
- ★ Help us transport plants to the sale.
- ★ Volunteer from 8am–noon to help **set up** for the sale. All these volunteers will be able to buy 3 native plants before the sale opens.
- ★ Volunteer who arrive prior to 11:30 am to assist with the **sale** and/or the **cleanup** will also be able to buy 3 native plants before the sale opens to the public.

Let's make this the greatest plant sale ever. We need you!

For questions regarding the plant sale contact Lucile Kossodo (757)565-0769 or Joan Etchberger (757)566-1884.

## Join us at one of these potting parties

We hope that you can come and help us plant and label at one of the potting parties now planned. If you can bring us some native plants for the sale, it would help us very much. If you have native plants but cannot come to the potting party, contact Joan Etchberger at (757)566-1884 or Lucile Kossodo (757)565-0769 and we can pick them up. If you need help digging them up, please call us and we can help.

- **Thursday, March 26 (rain date Friday, March 27) at 1:30 pm** at Sid and Sylvia Sterling's home in Gloucester. Their address is 4623 Free School Road, Gloucester, VA. Telephone is (804)693-2953. Call them to find directions to their home. Please call them ahead of time to let them know what plants you are bringing.

- **Tuesday, March 31 at 2 pm** at Ada Lou Turner's home in Williamsburg. Her address is 401 Yorkshire Drive, Williamsburg. Her phone number is (757)220-0929.

- **Saturday, April 4 at 11 am** at Bob and Cynthia Long's home in Williamsburg. Their address is 105 Bowstring Drive, Williamsburg, VA. Phone at (757)259-9559.

Other potting parties may be listed on our website; please check at [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org).

**Lucile Kossodo, Plant Sale Co-Chair**

## Our Spring 2009 plant walks...

Here is a list of plant walks Phillip Merritt has lined up for this Spring. Be sure to come to plant walks prepared: Sometimes we'll be on trails, sometimes we'll be off the beaten track. Wear clothes you can get dirty and bring water and snacks if you think you'll need them. You can find online maps for some of the walks at [www.howitgrows.com/2009/02/spring-plant-walks.html](http://www.howitgrows.com/2009/02/spring-plant-walks.html).

**W&M wildflower refuge—March 14, 10:00** There may not be a whole lot to see, but we'll be looking for late winter bloomers like hepatica and spicebush (if there's a cold snap it may delay the blooming of plants). The refuge is in the wooded area behind Swem library. The refuge is somewhat hilly with both paved and unpaved paths—we'll be walking about 1 mile. We'll meet in the parking lot behind Swem Library at the corner of Ukrop Drive and Landrum Drive (parking is allowed here on the weekends).

**New Quarter Park—Sunday, March 29, 1:30** We'll be looking for early spring bloomers like pawpaw, sassafras, redbud, and spicebush, along with emerging ferns. The trail is about 1½ miles long, somewhat hilly with mulched and dirt paths. New Quarter Park is at the end of end of Lakeshead Drive in the Queen's Lake subdivision near Williamsburg. We'll meet near the parking lot at the end of the drive, about 1 mile into the park.

**Longhill Swamp—Thursday, April 2, 9:00-noon** Get on your boots on for a wetland tour led by Dr. Donna Ware. We'll be looking for dwarf trillium (*Trillium pusillum*) in Longhill Swamp, as well as marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and spring cress (*Cardamine bulbosa*). For this walk, call 565-0657 to register.

**Noland Trail at the Mariner's Museum—Saturday, April 4, 1:30** Take a walk on the wooded path along Lake Maury. I'm hoping to see dogwood and redbud, fleabane, heartleaf and other spring perennials. The walk will be about 1½ miles, with a few small hills. We'll meet in the parking lot next to the Mariner's Museum. To get to the museum take J. Clyde Morris Blvd. west from 64 and follow to the end.

Reminder: Web and email addresses shown in **red** are active links.

**Grafton Ponds Natural Area Preserve–Wednesday, April 15th, 1:00** This walk will be led by Rebecca Wilson of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Grafton Ponds represents Virginia's best remaining example of a coastal plain pond complex. The many ponds here were formed by dissolution of the underlying calcareous marine deposits of the Yorktown Formation (that's a mouthful!). This wetland complex supports several rare plants and animals for Virginia including Harper's fimbriatilis, pond spice, Cuthbert turtlehead, Mabee's salamander and barking treefrog. Space is limited so call or email to register for the trip and to get directions. The preserve does not have maintained trails so be prepared for an adventurous walk of approximately 2½ miles.

**Downtown Williamsburg–Saturday, April 18, 10:00** We'll be looking for flowering trees and perennials in the heart of Williamsburg. Plants that may be in bloom include red buckeye, Jacob's ladder, sweet cicely, and Alabama snow-wreath. We'll be walking about 1 1/2 miles, on fairly flat sidewalks and paved paths. We'll meet at the intersection of Prince George Street and North Henry Street near the downtown parking garage.

**Colonial National Historical Park–Thursday April 23, 1:30-4:30** Join Dr. Donna Ware for a tour of calcareous ravines. We're hoping to see leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), scouring rush (*Equisetum hyemale*), and maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) among other plants. Call or email [claytonsnatives@yahoo.com](mailto:claytonsnatives@yahoo.com) for directions. For this walk, call 565-0657 to register.

**Matteson Trail–Sunday, April 26, 1:30** Join us for a walk around the edge of the Hamptons Golf Course on a trail named for John Clayton Chapter Member Tess Matteson. We'll be looking for plants like mayapple, black locust, bluets, blue-eyed grass and shagbark hickory. The easy 1 1/2 mile walk is along a level asphalt path. We'll meet in the parking lot of the Sentera Health and Fitness Center (currently undergoing renovation). To get to the trail take I-64, to the East Hampton Roads Center Parkway exit. After about .8 miles, turn left on to Magruder Blvd. and prepare for a quick left turn onto Butler Farm Road. Make the first right turn into the fitness center parking lot.

**Gloucester Tripetala Site–Saturday, May 2, 10:00** We're hoping to see the beautiful blooms of the Umbrella Magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*) along with maidenhair fern and the state champion mockernut hickory. There are no maintained trails on this site so be prepared for an adventurous walk. If you live on the middle peninsula you can also call Mary Hyde Berg at (804) 693-3568 to register.

**York River State Park - Saturday, May 9, 10:00** Take a walk along marshes flowing into the York River. Plants that may be in bloom include mountain laurel, partridge berry, and trailing arbutus. The walk will be about 1½ miles and fairly rugged. Be prepared for some hills. To get to York River State Park, take the Croaker exit off of I-64. After about .9 miles, turn right on Riverview Road and continue about 1.6 miles, then turn left on York River Park Road. We will meet in front of the visitor's center at the end of the road. There will be a park entrance fee of \$3 so carpooling is recommended.

**Phillip Merritt**

### **VNPS Workshop on High Mountain Flora Saturday, March 7**

The 2009 VNPS Workshop will be held in the Gottwald Center for the Sciences on the University of Richmond campus from 9:15 am to 3:15 pm, and will explore the unique flora of Virginia's mountains with an emphasis on the crucial need to preserve mountain vegetation in the face of modern pressures. Keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Byers of West Virginia Natural Heritage Program.

Please bring your own lunch as this event occurs during spring break and campus facilities will be closed.

For online directions, go to:

[www.richmond.edu/visit/index.html](http://www.richmond.edu/visit/index.html)

Please join us to be amazed, educated and inspired by high mountain flora!

**Helen Hamilton**

### **VA Master Naturalists program on Wednesday, March 11**

#### **“Virginia's Biodiversity and Its Conservation”**

7–9 pm in the Multi-purpose Room, Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg

Speaker Chris Ludwig has been with the Division of Natural Heritage within the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation since 1988. Since 1998, he has served as the Chief Biologist, directing a team of botanists, zoologists, and ecologists in their quest to identify all of the rare species populations and significant natural communities in Virginia. In 2001 he co-founded the Flora of Virginia Foundation, formed to produce the first modern manual to the vascular Flora of Virginia.

Admission is free but space is limited; please call/email Gary Driscoll at 566-4009 [[adrienne-gary@erols.com](mailto:adrienne-gary@erols.com)] to reserve your seat.

**Shirley Devan**

## Evening Learn and Grow Educational Program March 26

*Going green doesn't just make the earth a cleaner, healthier place to live. Going green can make dollar sense. Learn the green math that can save you time and money, without sacrificing your landscape or lifestyle.*

On Thursday, March 26, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm Williamsburg Botanical Garden will present a program entitled “Go Green—Save Green” at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theater on Scotland Street. Admission is free.

For more info, call 757/229-1995.

**Robin Bledsoe, WBG**

## VA Master Naturalists program on Wednesday, April 8

### “The State of Recycling—Locally and Globally”

*7–9pm in the Multi-purpose Room, Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg*

The world of recycling beyond the weekly pickup at your curbside has changed dramatically in the last year. Join us to learn about the local and global recycling environment from the Executive Director of the VPPSA, the folks who pick up your recycle bin every week.

Speaker: Steve Geissler, Executive Director, Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority [VPPSA].

Admission is free but space is limited; please call/email Shirley Devan at 757-813-1322 [[sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net)] to reserve your seat.

**Shirley Devan**

## Native plants in the landscape

*Excerpts from VNPS website article by Kim Strader, VNPS Horticulture Chair*

Habitat conservation and educating the public about the appropriate use of native plants in the landscape are two facets of the Virginia Native Plant Society's (VNPS) mission.

We encourage gardeners to ask several questions when purchasing native plants:

• **What is the source of this plant?** Reputable nurseries should be able to answer this question easily. Acceptable answers include division from nursery stock, responsibly collected seeds, plugs and liners. A hesitation to answer could indicate that plants have been dug from the wild.

• **Is this plant native to my region?** Some suppliers will label a plant “native” if it naturally occurs in the United States. An example of this is Blue Spruce which grows natively in Colorado but not in Virginia. While plants such

as this will grow here, they do not provide the same ecosystem services as a plant from Virginia. In other words, birds and mammals in Colorado have co-evolved with Blue Spruce so they are able to utilize the plant. Organisms in Virginia, however, do not recognize the plant so it provides little to no wildlife services.

• **Was this plant grown from local stock or does the plant have a local origin?** Ask if the plant was propagated from regional stock. An Oak from Alabama may look the same as an Oak from Virginia but they will have genetic variations. Research has shown that plants from local stock will grow better because they have evolved to withstand our local climate conditions.

• **Am I gardening in close proximity to a natural area?** As previously discussed, genetic variation can determine the survival of a plant. The genetic variation that exists in non-local plants could potentially affect natural plant populations. Preliminary research indicates that alteration in the gene pool of a natural population can occur in offspring plants as a result of pollination between local and non-local plants of the same genus and species. The resulting offspring could exhibit a decreased ability to survive local temperature variations and could affect the usefulness of plants to wildlife.

• **Is my planting for restoration?** When planting for restoration purposes, the VNPS advises using only those plants that are propagated from local populations. Please consult organizations and societies that specialize in restoration for additional information.

**Helen Hamilton**

## An orchid in winter—the cranefly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*)

A familiar site in rich woods in the winter is the single leaf of the summer-blooming cranefly orchid. This species usually occurs in colonies—several leaves, each representing a single plant, are usually seen together. Green on the upper surface, the underside is shining purple. The top surface may be smooth or corrugated, but the underside is always beet red.

When the orchid blooms in mid-July, no leaves are visible. The flower of Cranefly orchid is inconspicuous. Pale green and pale purple to beige, no more than ½ inch across, it is easily overlooked, unlike the winter leaf which signals the presence of this



Cranefly orchid bloom; photo on Flickr by jpc.raleigh.

Reminder: Web and email addresses shown in **red** are active links.

orchid. The flowers are inconspicuous but very delicate. They are only noticed when a shaft of slanting fall sunlight highlights what reminds some people of a swarm of small insects—hence “crane-fly.” The genus name of the crane-fly is *Tipularia*. Another common name is Elfin’s Spur. Another common name, “Crippled Crane-fly”, refers to the flowers, which incline slightly to the right or left. This is necessary for pollination by night-flying moths, when the pollen-bearing sacs become attached to the moth’s eye.

Crane-fly orchid is not usually available in nurseries since,



Crane-fly orchid leaves in winter; photo by Helen Hamilton.

like all native orchids, it is dependent on fungi in the ground, and all parts of the plant are inconspicuous. However, on a walk through local woods in the winter, the leaves are a welcome sight in the midst of brown leaf litter.

**Helen Hamilton**

### Give a Free Gift !

During 2009, any life, renewing or new member can give a free gift of membership in VNPS to an individual, family or student who they know cares about native plants and their habitat. The purpose is to introduce people to VNPS who haven’t heard about us or are not familiar with our mission. The hope is that once the gift membership is over, they will have become involved with chapter efforts and will continue membership on their own.

Your renewal form will remind you of this offer. If you are a Life Member you may also give the gift by contacting the VNPS office at 540 837-1600 or [vnpsoc@shentel.net](mailto:vnpsoc@shentel.net). If you are a new member in 2009 and missed this offer when you joined, please also contact the VNPS office.

The recipient of your gift will receive a letter informing them of your gift, along with our new member packet. The membership will be good for one full year of benefits, including invitations to state and chapter events and newsletters.

Pass on your love of Virginia’s natural treasures with a gift that helps conserve the Old Dominion’s wild flowers and wild places.

**Patti Gray, Membership Chair**

### Membership Form for John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

(Place checks in the boxes below next to your selections.)

I am a  **new member** of the John Clayton Chapter  **renewing member** of 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 John Clayton Chapter  to VNPS

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

Reminder: Web and email addresses shown in **red** are active links.

## Calendar

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- March into May** Phillip Merritt has scheduled a number of plant walks for this Spring...  
*Dates and details about each walk begin on Page 4.*
- 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.  
*See Page 1.*
- 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 is available 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).)*