



American Aster

(*Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*)

College Landing Park
Williamsburg

C Flanagan Oct 2023

Cathy Flanagan
President
757-879-1997

Cortney Will,
Secretary

Cathy Flanagan
Treasurer

Emilia Godwin
Communications

Adrienne Frank
Plant Sale Chair

Jennifer Myers
Stonehouse Garden

Libbey Oliver
Nature Camp



John Clayton Chapter
VNPS
PO Box 1128
Williamsburg, VA 23187



Claytonia

John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

September-October 2024

HAPPY FALL!

vnps.org/johnclayton

Please Join us on Zoom Tuesday November 19, 7 p.m.

"Seeing the Fungi for the Trees:

A hidden world of plant-fungal interactions"



Mary Jane Epps is an associate professor of biology at Mary Baldwin University, where she teaches botany, ecology, entomology, and conservation biology.

Following a bachelor's degree at Duke University, she earned a Ph. D. studying fungal-insect interactions at the University of Arizona in 2012, and completed postdoctoral research at NC State University in 2015. As an ecologist with a strong emphasis on natural history, especially in a Virginia context, her research explores various interactions between plants, fungi, and insects.

From the President: Cathy Flanagan The History of John Clayton Chapter Part 1

Greetings everyone! This has been a very good year for our chapter. It also happens to be our 40th year, so I thought I'd begin with a little history.

Before there was a Virginia Native Plant Society, there was a *Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society* (VWPS)

This organization was founded in 1982 by Mary Painter. Mary's passion for the conservation of native wildflowers was spurred on by the rapid acceleration of development in Fairfax County Virginia.

Mary envisioned an organization with the mission of rescuing and relocating threatened plants, cultivating native

wildflowers for sale, and educating the public about them. To this end, Mary acted on her vision and began the work of making the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society a reality.

Mary became the first President and recruited a group of knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers to join her.

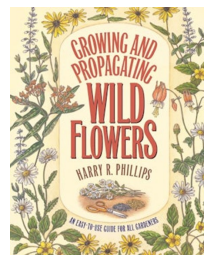
One of the first orders of business was a trip to the North Carolina Botanical Garden for an all-day workshop led by Harry R.

Phillips, curator of native plants, a respected researcher, and author of "*Growing and Propagating Wildflowers*"

***Note: This book can still be found online for various prices**

In her first Letter from the President, Mary reported that membership had climbed to over 115 and was "growing by the week" as word of their plant conservation efforts became known.

I can understand the enthusiasm. A reading of the committee reports in this first Newsletter revealed to me the magnitude of effort put forth by the volunteers on behalf of conservation, advocacy, and education. *continued on page 2*



These first committee reports covered a broad range of ambitious projects requiring expertise, coordination and planning:

Target

Members of this committee met with county supervisors, the Northern Virginia Builders Association, and local landowners. This was to familiarize themselves with the maps and other available public information and to receive notice of commercial and residential developments. Committee members were pleased to find that landowners were supportive of their conservation efforts!

Target Part II

Due to all the contacts made by the committee, a table was sketched out in the Newsletter listing eight potential sites, the name of the landowner or developer, and a long list of some of the impacted plants known to exist at some of the sites.

Botanical

This was the committee requiring members with the most experience in terms of field identification. The co-chairs of the committee developed site survey forms and led two survey demonstrations for volunteers.

It was decided that members of the committee would form teams of three with members of each team at different levels of expertise – the goal being to develop a “deep bench” within the whole committee. Amazingly, this committee, which included Mary Painter, reported that it was preparing for its first rescue project...

Rescue

The message from this report was that at the start of each project, those participating would be given an on-site briefing on available species, site mapping, and the recommended techniques for plant removal. The plant materials would be relocated to other managed areas within the impacted site or to VWPS at their headquarters at Green Spring.

Landscape I

The committee reported that they were preparing preselected sites at Green Spring to relocate the rescued plants. Soil surveys were made in order to determine which species would do best under Green Spring’s natural conditions. This committee also reported that it would prepare an artificial bog garden next to Green Spring’s two ponds.

Landscape II

Members of this committee are responsible for the replanting of the rescued species to sites located throughout Northern Virginia. Members of Landscape II were to be tasked with compiling environmental survey data on other potential sites which would help VWPS develop the criteria for future sites and replanting programs.

Propagation

The report from *Propagation* was that facilities wouldn’t be fully operational until building construction and ground preparation work were completed – including the greenhouse at Green Spring. Project completion time, was scheduled though, for September 1982!

The good news, however, was that the permanent propagation and nursery beds would be ready for planting in August. The chairman of the committee dispensed seeds and plant cultivation information to those committee members that were maintaining native species in their own wildflower gardens. The committee was to meet next to share the valuable lessons learned at the recently held workshop at North Carolina Botanical Gardens! (refer to page 1) and to prepare for..

Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society’s 1st Fall Native Plant Sale!!

Education

This committee met in mid June to prepare a summer roster of membership activities. The chairman led two wildflower walks and presented two slide programs designed to “sharpen volunteer skills.”

Other educational offerings listed on the Calendar:

Introduction to Plant Taxonomy

This was to be led by a staff botanist at the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Office of Endangered Species and would be the first in a series of lectures offering a more scientific approach for native plant “enthusiasts”

Herbarium Workshop led by an associate Professor of Botany at George Mason University. The workshop was to include instruction on field book recording, plant specimen labeling, drying, pressing, and mounting.

Wildflower Photography Field Workshop An outdoor event limited to 10 persons.

“Landscape and Floristic Diversity of Virginia” slide presentation and discussion, led by Larry Norse, staff botanist with the Nature Conservancy



Mary Painter added two notes to the Newsletter. One was that the Society logo would be:

Marsh Marigold
(*Caltha palustris*)

The second, that Mary would be meeting with the Prince William Wildflower Society to discuss the future possibilities of forming chapters within VWPS.

Coming Next Issue:

**The History of
John Clayton Chapter Part 2**

**Photo: Lucile Kossodo’s garden,
March 2020, C. Flanagan.**

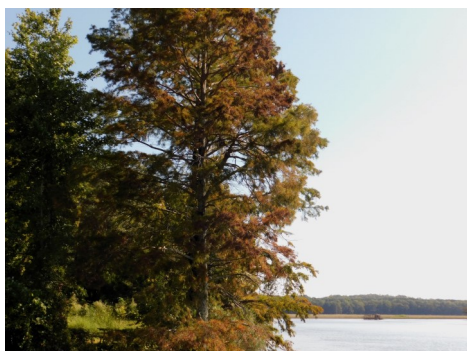
That early October morning was perfect for a walk through a riverside garden that started as a blank canvas.



Chickahominy River

Aside from its natural beauty situated along the Chickahominy River in Lanexa, the site of the Brickyard Landing Riparian Buffer Demonstration Garden has a long history – like many areas around Williamsburg.

But it took the experience and persistence of Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, a Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and member of John Clayton Chapter, as well as hundreds of hours from numerous volunteers, to turn it into a garden that demonstrates the benefits of native plants in managing storm-water issues and erosion in water-side areas, or wet spots in any garden in our corner of the state. The Brickyard Landing Demonstration Garden started as a Master Gardener Water Steward project that morphed into a Master Gardener/Master Naturalist endeavor.



Bald cypress



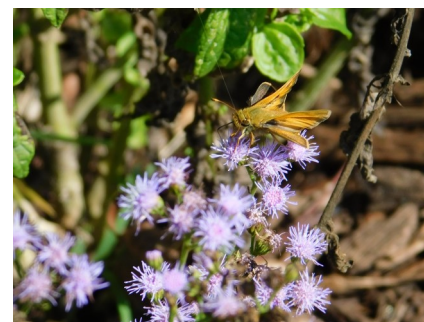
Pier



It was designed by Daniel Malone, a landscape architect with Stantec. Two phases have been completed with phases three and four continuing this fall. So far, 80 trees and woody shrubs have been planted in addition to about 1,500 perennials and grasses. This fall, more trees and woody shrubs will be planted, as well as a meadow.

Most plants have been acquired through grant funding and the vast majority of them are native to James City County and surrounding counties. The garden project is always looking for volunteers. To volunteer and read more about it, [follow the link](#).

When we toured the garden, some of the plants were already preparing for their dormancy but others were still going strong, like pink muhly grass with wafting pink clouds swaying in the breeze and the blue mist flowers enjoyed by butterflies and skippers. A bald eagle soared high into the bright blue sky and fiddler crabs went about their business. Nature at its best.



Skipper butterfly on blue mistflower



Fiddler crab

If you are interested in more opportunities for group nature walks and tours led by knowledgeable guides, and if you have ideas of where you might want to go, please let us know. Your input will be valuable as we put together our programs for 2025.

jccvnps2@gmail.com



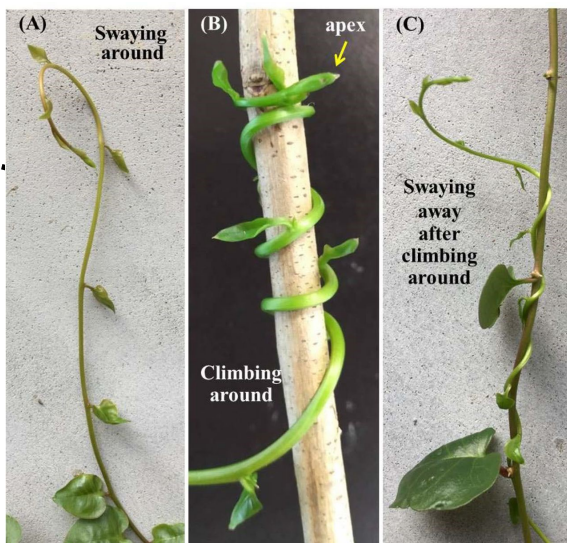
Buckeye butterfly visiting blue mistflower

Photos by Emilia Godwin



Yes, plants grow in the ground and cannot leave the soil, but time-lapse photography reveals many and constant movements by plants.

- ♦ As seeds germinate, embryonic tissues grow downward through the soil to form roots, while early stems are growing above ground. They move, twist, and change direction.
- ♦ Most plants turn their leaves toward light (positive phototropism) – roots grow away from light (negative phototropism).
- ♦ There is constant movement as flowers open and leaves unfold.
- ♦ Some plants respond to touch by closing their leaves – mimosa, Venus fly-trap
- ♦ In response to cold weather, the leaves of rhododendrons curl downward
- ♦ Many plants actively expel their seeds – the seed pod of impatiens explode with wind or a simple touch; witch hazel seeds shoot out like bullets from a rifle
- ♦ Seed dispersal –peanut plants send their flowers into the soil where the seeds (peanuts) form; other plants seek crevices in which to deposit their seeds
- ♦ Twining vines



All growing plants perform circular movements (circumnutation) in response to sources of light, water, and nutrients, but none are more dramatic than those of twining vines. Seemingly purposeful, the stems make ever widening circular movements until encountering a stable surface. Studies of pea plants show the vining stems can determine the difference between thin and thick supports, suggesting the plants have some sort of sensory mechanisms that allow them to control movements. When contact with a support is made, the vines can produce small growths that attach them to the surface.

Plant cells have the same components as those of animals, and electro-chemical signaling has been demonstrated, but the mechanisms are unknown. Charles Darwin was fascinated by plant movements, and proposed “the movements depend on innate causes, and are of an adaptive nature” (The Power of Movement in Plants, 1880).

Later studies at the cellular level show cell elongation and changes in cell pressure result in specific patterns of growth in response to light. More remains to be learned about the response of plants to environmental cues. It is tempting to assign a certain kind of sentience to apparent plant behaviors, since the responses of plants in many ways mimic those of organisms we call animals.

Time Lapse Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmoVMY2Uqas>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlinBQLfJ4k>



Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*)
twining tendrils, hill over looking James River
6/19/22 C. Flanagan



Meegan Wallace & Lucile

"I always liked working in Lucile's garage -maybe because we had shelter from the weather. We had some good laughs!."

Cathy Flanagan

A Memorable Walk



Lucile, Wayne Moyer, Shirley Devan, Zach Bradford, John Bunch Photo by Helen Hamilton

"Hot, mid-July, walking sandy power line and off into lush meadows of wild-flowers, identified by experts on the trip. I was looking for bryophytes and found only sphagnum moss in a boggy area"

Helen Hamilton

"A wonderful, energetic leader with a broad range of knowledge, experience, and wisdom. Thank you for your many years, Lucile."

Sally Young (Yorktown)



Helen & Lucile

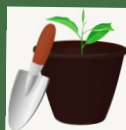
See last page for key to the photos.

New to John Clayton?

Chapter meetings are held via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of every other month.

The meetings consist of a video presentation, followed by an interactive Q&A. The presenters are experts from a wide variety of relevant fields. The Zoom format allows for greater participation and convenience.

The presentations are recorded and the videos may be viewed at the link below:



<https://vimeo.com/show-case/8054025>

If you have native plants that are outgrowing their space, we may be able to help you dig them to donate to our school garden, or sell at our plant sale.



The John Clayton Chapter Annual Native Plant Sale is a year round project that everyone can contribute to in some way. Great team work has made this event very successful for us. It is how we fund Nature Camp scholarships, school gardens, local parks, and donations to VNPS initiatives such as the Natural Areas Preserves fund and the Flora of Virginia. Learn about the project and the helpful app.

A Reminder about Potting Parties:

Sunday, November 10, 1 pm, Etchbergers
100 Woodland Rd, Williamsburg

Tuesday, November 12, 10 am, Etchbergers
100 Woodland Rd., Williamsburg

If you would like to attend any or all of the potting parties, please respond to Janet Lundin, jeclundin@gmail.com.

If you are able to join us and can purchase a bag or two of potting soil, garden soil, humus, and/or fine-grade mulch, please do so and let us know. We will reimburse you. That would be very helpful because we don't have potting soil ready to be used at the potting parties.

Key to Photo Collage

Top L-R 1) Cathy Flanagan & Edie Bradbury, Lucile's garage, 2) Cardinal flower, Lucile's garden, photo by Cathy, 3) Donna Ware, Meegan Wallace, goldenrod ID 4) Blue-eyed grass, Lucile's garden.

2nd Row :Left side: 5) Wine goblets Cathy purchased from Lucile, who hand painted them for a Church fundraiser, 6) Right Side: 2023 Plant sale committee: Lucile, Edie Bradbury, Cathy Flanagan, Sue Voigt, Adrienne Frank

3rd Row Left side: 7) *Claytonia virginica* Creative Commons license. Left Side: 8) Cherry Orchard Bog walk.

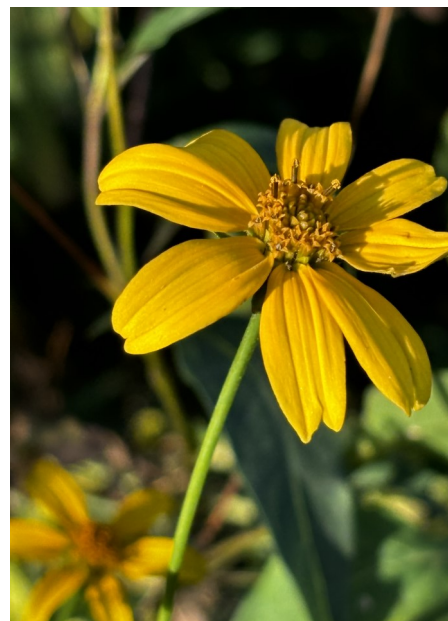
4th row: 9) Adrienne, (Lucile's garage) newspaper for potting happened to be funny, 10) Mountain laurel, (Lucile's garden,) 11) Wayne, Lucile, David, Jennifer 12) We called this photo "The long and winding road to the plant sale." Lucile's front walkway. 13) Cover of Next Door Neighbors magazine interview.

Welcome New Members!

Brenda Johnson	Hayes
Terry McGlennon	Williamsburg

David Youker	Yorktown
Jordan Goodrich	Newport News
Marybeth Henningsen	Williamsburg
Sarah Henningsen	Williamsburg

If a friend shared this newsletter with you, and you'd like to join as a member, go to <https://vnps.org/johnclayton/membership/to> find out more. Gift membership is also available. Help us spread the love for native plants and wild spaces. *Thank you.*



False Sunflower
(*Heliopsis helianthoides*)
C.Flanagan 11-2-24