



Claytonia

Newsletter of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

Volume 29, Number 1

January–February 2013

www.claytonvnps.org

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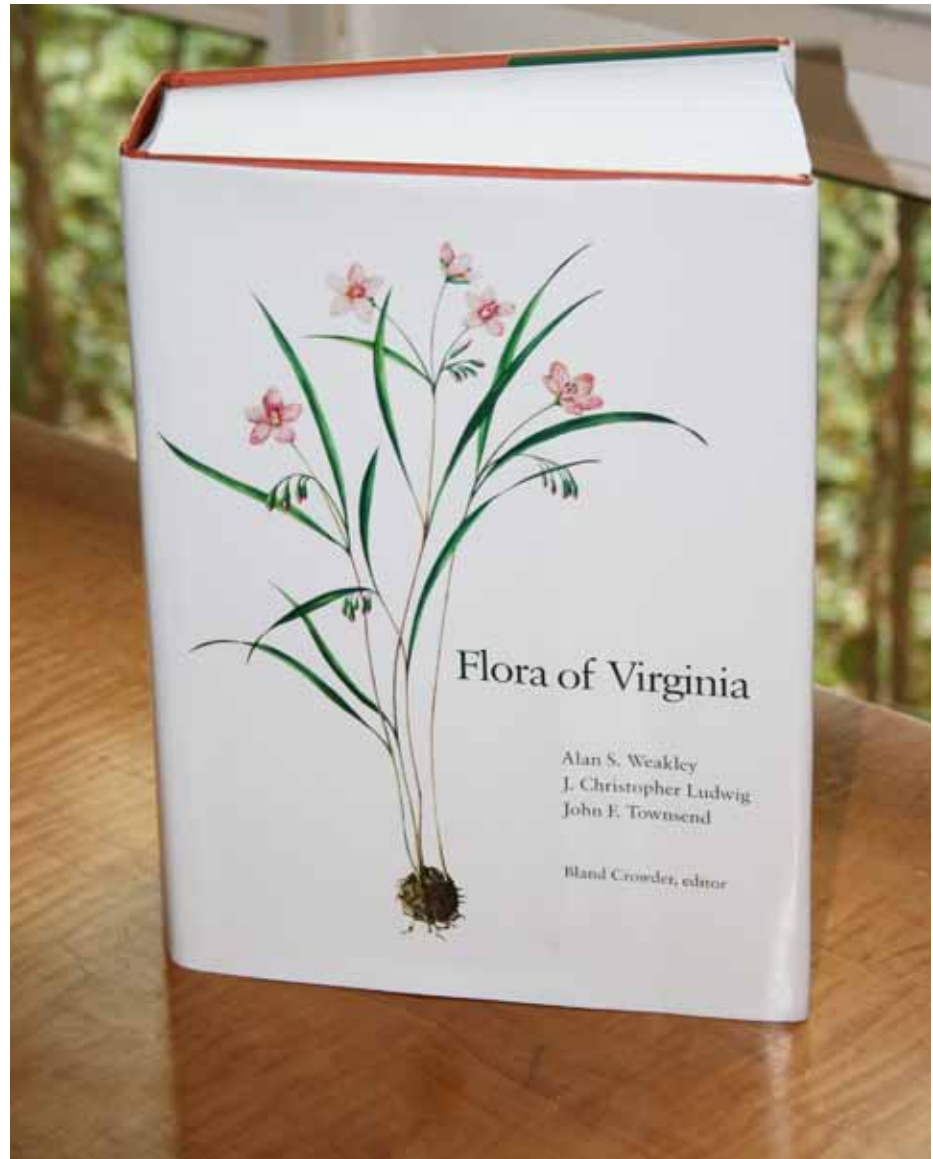
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Our January 17 Meeting— Donna Ware on “Using the *Flora of Virginia*”



Come Celebrate the Long-awaited Arrival!

Gestation Period: 12 years (or 250 years!)

Length: 1554 pp.

Weight: 8 lb.

Name: *Flora (of) Virginia*

At our first chapter meeting of the new year, 17 January 2013, Donna Ware will discuss using the *Flora of Virginia*. She will focus primarily on the following five questions:

- ☞ How does the content of this flora differ from the content of its predecessor, *Flora Virginica* (1762)?
- ☞ What resources are contained in this book in addition to the species accounts and the identification keys?
- ☞ What information within the species accounts will be especially useful and interesting to native plant gardeners and to anyone interested in natural diversity, plant geography, or species relationships?
- ☞ Which plants are, and which plants are not, included and why?
- ☞ What are key elements to the efficient and effective use of the KEYS?

If you have already purchased a copy of the new *Flora*, please bring it with you to the meeting.

The meeting begins at **6:45 pm at the *WJCC Rec Center at 5301 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg**. Their phone is 757-259-4200.

*** Note the change of venue for January's meeting!**



Our November annual meeting

Our speaker, Doug DeBerry, focused on the characteristics of grasses that help ID them to species in the Mid-Atlantic Region (characteristics like grass flowers, leaf structure, root composition, etc.), using many native grass species in his presentation. He also talked about introduced species (which of course are relevant to conservation and restoration, since many of our invasive

species are grasses). I think we came away with a better understanding of the “language” of grass identification, as Dr. DeBerry hoped we would!

Louise Menges

New members

Welcome to new members **Charles Gardner, Bill Mann and Karen Schwamb**, all of Williamsburg!

Upcoming JCC field trips...

Saturday, January 19, 9 am: Native plant walk at Wahrani Nature Trails

Back by request! **Gus Hall** and **Jan Newton** will lead us again on a quest for everything green during a native plant walk at the Wahrani Nature Trails in New Kent County. Winter is a lovely time to enjoy evergreen plants as they are contrasted nicely with the browns, grays, and tans of bare-limbed plants and the leaf layer on the ground. The site has ground cedar, tree clubmoss, rattlesnake plantain orchid, crane-fly orchid, Christmas fern, American holly and partridge berry, to name a few, plus lots of beautiful mosses and interesting lichen. We may get to see British soldier lichen, as well. You'll be amazed at just how much is green this time of year. Dress for the weather and expect uneven trails and some muddy areas along the trail.

Please register so that in case of inclement weather and the walk has to be re-scheduled, we will be able to let you know.

Register by contacting Jan Newton at 757-566-3646 or jnewton110@cox.net. Let us know your name, phone number and how many are attending.

Directions:

From the east (Williamsburg):

Take 64 west towards Richmond; take the 2nd West Point exit (Exit 220); travel approximately 4 miles on Hwy. 33 toward West Point; trail entrance will be on the right hand side.

From the north (West Point):

take Hwy. 33 across the bridge at West Point towards New Kent; travel approximately 3–4 miles on Hwy. 33 (from the bridge); trail entrance will be on the left hand side.

For more information and a map, visit <http://www.hikingupward.com/ovh/wahrani/>.

Inclement Weather Note: If weather stops the walk, it will be re-scheduled for **Saturday, January 26 at 9 am.**



Top, partridge berry
(*Mitchella repens*)
Bottom, rattlesnake plantain
(*Goodyera pubescens*)

Both photos: Jan Newton

Jan Newton

**Saturday, February 2, 1:30–3:30 pm:
Nude tree walk through the College Woods to Squirrel Point**

Join **Charlie Dubay** for a look at trees “in the altogether” as he leads a walk through William and Mary’s College Woods to Squirrel Point on the shore of Lake Matoaka.

Meet at **1:30 pm** in front of the William and Mary Rec Center; parking in the nearby W&M Hall parking lot is free on weekends.

Please call Charlie at 757/870-0284 to register and for more information. The rain or snow date will be **Saturday, Feb. 9.**

**Common Ground-pine: Wildflower of the Month
for December 2012**

Common Ground-pine (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*), a familiar plant of rich woods, looks like a miniature pine tree, hence its other common names of “Princess Pine” and “Tree Clubmoss.” The stems are upright, to a foot tall, bearing several repeatedly forked, somewhat flattened side branches. With deep, creeping, underground stems, the plant often forms large colonies. From July through September, spores are formed in yellowish cylindrical “cones” arising from some upper branches.

Common Ground-pine occurs in every county of Virginia, usually in acidic upland forests, and rich, damp woodlands. The species is common eastern U.S. and Canada and ranges northwest into Asia.

Also found in every county in Virginia, Running-cedar (*Diphasiastrum digitatum* or *Lycopodium digitatum*) is common in dry open woods and meadows. Its branches form flattened fans, their tiny leaves in four rows. A cluster of two to four cones form at the tip of a long erect stalk. This species, also known as Southern Ground Cedar, is native only to eastern North America. Both these species have been heavily collected for wreaths and Christmas decorations.

Helen Hamilton



Common ground pine
Photo: Helen Hamilton



Running cedar
Photo: Phillip Merritt

January thoughts about the Plant Sale

It's cold outside and yet I'm already thinking about my garden. Aren't you? I imagine all the projects I would like to do by spring. But more importantly I am thinking about the Plant Sale for the fifth year. Since I am in charge of plants for the Plant Sale, there is much for me to do. I need to think of plants we need to order. To plan for the Sale, I need to decide which plants will sell and which I need to order. I have to guess which plants we will not get in any potting party or from our great nursery, the Stonehouse Habitat. I also need to send messages to some of our generous plant donors and find out if they will have something for us next year. Members sometimes grow plants or divide them for the Plant Sale. Right now, I know that we will need to get many ferns and woodland plants to fill our shade garden areas. If you have some plants for that category, please let me know by email: lkossodo@cox.net or by phone: 787-565-0769. I know that we also will need more part sun or full sun plants. Your donation does not need to be huge, a dozen of this or a dozen of that will add up to a great plant sale. If you cannot pot them yourself, bring them to a potting party. Or if you have pots 6 inches or larger, we can use them. Bring them to my house. We like to recycle.

The next big item in preparing for the plant sale is to find members generous enough to be willing to host a potting party during the month of March. What is involved in hosting a potting party? We need a work area available to us and some plants to donate. Volunteers come with plants to pot or just with gloves ready to pot. In addition, I bring pens and labels to name and price the plants. If you have soil or pots for us to use, that is great, but not necessary—I usually bring both to the potting party. You need to have some water for volunteers and the newly potted plants. You do not have to keep the plants and be responsible for them. We can transport the plants to our staging area, where they will be cared for until they are transported to the sale site. If hosting a potting party is a way that you can contribute to our Plant Sale, contact me by email: lkossodo@cox.net or by phone: 757-565-0769 as soon as possible because before we know it, it will be March and April!

Location of the 2013 Plant Sale has been finalized!

After months of searching for a location for the 2013 Plant Sale, it has been decided that the plant sale will be held outdoors at Lafayette High School. The sale will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 9 am to 1 pm. The school has a huge parking area for the customers and is well-known to the public. The only difficulty will be that set-up on Friday,

April 26, 2013 can only begin at 4 pm when the faculty and students' cars will have left the parking area. Therefore, those in charge of set-up will be working the late afternoon and evening hours. The Members Only sale will be on Friday, April 26 after the set-up; more information will be forthcoming later. Now that we have a location for the sale, the work of planning, potting parties and publicity can truly begin. This year, only Master Gardeners and John Clayton Chapter will participate in the sale. We hope you are looking forward to being a part of the sale on April 27, 2013. The plant sale team is ready and full of ideas. **Lucile Kossodo**

A 2013 program schedule for the Williamsburg Botanical Garden

(Programs are on the 3rd Saturday of every month, January through November, from 10:00 to 11:30 am, and are free and open to the public.)

January 19: The Right Cut. A tree and shrub pruning workshop in the Freedom Park Interpretive Center. Carol Fryer and James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners will discuss the basics of pruning trees and shrubs and will demonstrate the proper use of pruning tools.

February 16: Bluebirds in our Gardens. An adult Walk and Talk Lecture in the Freedom Park Interpretive Center. Shirley Devan, Certified Virginia Master Naturalist and Williamsburg Bird Club President, will lead a fact-filled workshop in the Freedom Park Interpretive Center about the habits of the Bluebird family season by season and how several local groups monitor bluebird trails in our area. After the talk, Shirley will lead a walk through the area to look for bluebirds and to see their nesting boxes.

March 16: Raised Bed Vegetable Gardens. (Location to be announced) Susan Donnelly, Master Gardener in James City County/Williamsburg will show participants how to construct and maintain vegetable gardens in raised beds.

April 20: Barrels and Bins. In the Botanical Garden, the Williamsburg Master Gardener Barrels and Bins team will show gardeners how to grow healthy and delicious fresh vegetables and herbs using sustainable and environmentally friendly projects. The team will demonstrate how to build a rain barrel, how to make a composter using readily available materials and how to construct a self-watering container. Barrels and bins will be available for sale at the Garden.

May 18: Art in the Garden. A program for children 7 and older in the Botanical Garden. Linda Miller, artist and Virginia Master Naturalist, will help children create a botanical portrait in colored pencil or wa-

tercolor from plant materials they select in the Garden. All materials are provided. Class is limited to 25 participants registration is required by May 11. Contact *botanicalarttoday@yahoo.com*.

June 15: Zoo in a Luggage. (Location to be announced) Live animals! Clyde Marsteller, Newport News Master Gardener, will have his menagerie of bugs and worms and snakes available for an up close and personal look. Children and adults will enjoy seeing and touching the fascinating creatures that live in gardens, parks, playgrounds, and homes.

July 20: Outdoor Garden Design. Award-winning landscape designer Peggy Krapf will lead a walk through the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. She will provide ideas to turn home gardens and yards into beautiful outdoor living spaces. Suggested materials to bring: pen and notebook or digital camera.

August 17: Life Stages of Monarch Butterflies. From a caterpillar to a butterfly. Barb Dunbar, Master Gardener and certified Master Naturalist, will help children and adults understand the remarkable transformation that results in the stunning Monarch butterfly. She will show participants the plants in the Garden that nourish the developing caterpillars. Registration is required.

Sept 21: Sept 21: Tagging Monarch Butterflies. Learn how to hand raise butterflies with proper care at different stages; learn lots of *Lepidoptera* fun facts. A list of host and nectar plants to incorporate into your garden to attract them will be available. Monarch butterflies hand-raised by James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Angela Cingale will be tagged. Participants will release the butterflies in the Garden and be able to track their journey to Mexico.

October 19: Our Native Trees. (Location to be announced) Patsy McGrady and Mitzi Balma, James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners, will discuss the trees native to Virginia. They have done an inventory of the trees in the Botanical Garden, and will lead a walk through the Garden.

November 16: Advent Wreaths. In the Freedom Park Interpretive Center, Genrose Lashinger will show participants how to construct beautiful wreaths for the advent season using natural herbs. Many of these herbs are growing in the Botanical Garden.



My husband, Fred Blystone, took this photo of a door decorated for Christmas in Colonial Williamsburg—note the use of polypore fungi! (*Apropos of nothing, but it caught my eye.*)
Editor

If your renewal date is **8/30/12 or earlier**, this is the last issue you will receive until you renew.

Contact Membership Chair **Patti Gray** at 757/645-4164 or at patriciagray67@gmail.com with questions about your membership.

Membership Form for John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

(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*	

I would like to receive my newsletters electronically at the email address above.

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

Calendar

Thursday, Jan 17 6:45 pm: John Clayton Chapter meeting at the ***WJCC Rec Center at 5301 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg**. Our speaker is **Dr. Donna Ware**, whose subject will be **"Using the Flora of Virginia."** Bring your copy of the Flora! (See Page 1.)

*** Note the change of venue for January's meeting!**

Saturday, Jan 19 9 am: Native plant walk at **Wahrani Nature Trails** led by **Gus Hall** and **Jan Newton**. (See Page 2 for directions and contact information.)

Saturday, Feb 2 1:30–3:30 pm: **Nude Tree Walk** through the **College Woods** to **Squirrel Point** led by **Charlie Dubay**. (See Page 3 for details and contact information.)

There may be walks in the works which did not make this issue, so **keep a lookout for announcements about additional walks** on our website at www.claytonvnps.org.