



Claytonia

Newsletter of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

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vnps.org/johnclayton

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On May 21, Helen Hamilton will speak to us about "Native Uses of Native Plants."

"This is the store"—as the Jamestown colonists surveyed the marshy wilderness they had chosen for a new home, how did they find shelter, food, clothing, medicines, tools? Native American tribes had met these needs from what grew around



A period depiction of Powhatans with some of their foodstuffs (from scienceandhistory.org)

them. Trees, shrubs, and herbs furnished shelter, food, household items and medicines. Fish and game were plentiful in early America, but the early settlers had little knowledge nor interest in using natural resources for their needs.

Today we are still using native plants for our food, shelter and medicines. Wood is the source for homes, telephone poles, fences; witch hazel and primrose oil can be found in drug stores. Echinacea and many other plants have medicinal qualities, and our food is plant-based. We are still learning about powerful chemicals produced by plants for their defense against insects, with the hope of adapting such weapons for our own use.

This Powerpoint talk is adapted from a recent six-hour presentation for the Christopher Wren Society about the food, structures, and medicines used by Native Americans. The sources for illustrations and information are several books authored by Dr. Helen Rountree, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Old Dominion University.

The meeting begins at **6:45 pm** at the **Yorktown Public Library** at the intersection of Battle Road and Route 17 in Yorktown. **See you there!**

From the President

Our plant sale went very well, given the fact that it was cold and rainy most of the day. I am writing to thank all persons who worked so hard for the plant sale; it was not easy to be cold and wet. So many members helped, each giving what they could to make this sale a success. It was very helpful to receive your empty gallon pots for potting. If you buy a plant this Spring and Summer or Autumn, please recycle your pots to me at 229 West Queens Drive, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185. I am already potting baby plants for next year. Some of you gave us plants, and that is a great gift for the sale. Some of you came last Fall and this Spring. You worked hard potting plants, labelling them and pricing them so that they would look good enough to sell. The best profit comes from the plants we pot from our gardens. Some of you worked during the sale tallying, showing plants and explaining their suitable environment, or cashiering. We thank you for lending us your wagons and your tents. It takes a whole village to make a good sale. Next year we will work on improving our publicity. Thank you, everyone. **Lucile Kossodo**



Cortney's notes

March's Board meeting

The Board took little action at the March meeting, as most of the meeting was devoted to discussing the details of the annual plant sale. You won't want to miss it!

Spring can be a frantic time for native plant enthusiasts and gardeners; there's so much to see and do! Please consider donating even a few hours to the John Clayton Chapter to help staff a table at an event, pull weeds at the Stonehouse Habitat Garden, or lead a plant walk featuring your favorite spot to see native plants. Contact any board member to learn how to get involved.

Find chapter news at vnps.org/johnclayton

Some of you might have noticed that you can find most of our chapter information through the Virginia Native Plant Society banner site, vnps.org. From the home page, just choose "John Clayton" under Chapters.

Over the past few months, Phillip Merritt has been migrating much of our chapter content to the state's site. This should make it easier for prospective members to find us and other chapters to learn about us.

It's also simpler—and cheaper—for chapter board members to administer the page at vnps.org instead of running a standalone site. Not to mention, it looks great.

There are no immediate plans to remove the standalone site (**clayton-vnps.org**), but if you want the most current chapter information, visit and bookmark **vnps.org/johnclayton**.

Rescue Team update

The Williamsburg Native Plant Rescue Team is helping with two student projects at William & Mary. The first has the Student Environmental Action Council removing invasive species (namely, bamboo) from the iconic Crim Dell and replanting the area with natives. The students have asked for appropriate rescued plants and shrubs when they are ready to revegetate.

For the second project, students are installing a 300-square-foot rain garden behind the Keck Environmental Lab to capture stormwater and help prevent erosion along the Lake Matoaka shoreline. The students requested appropriate rescued natives and the team donated spicebush, mayapple, jacks-in-the-pulpit, golden ragwort, blue flag iris, and four different types of ferns.

Cortney Langley

New members

Welcome to new members **Jeff Honig** of Yorktown, **Joan Lovelace** of Williamsburg, and **Becky Norsworthy** of Barhamsville.

Upcoming JCC Spring walks...

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 am: Two-for-one walk

Edie Bradbury will lead a short walk around her property in Gloucester, to see her collection of native wildflowers, and how shrubs and trees can be incorporated into a home landscape. Then a short car trip to Brent and Becky's to meet Rhododendron expert George McClellan, who will guide the group through several of Brent's gardens, including the group of native plantings. After these walks, there are several very good restaurants in Gloucester Courthouse off Rt. 17.

Contact Edie to register and for more information at 804-693-4190 or ediebradbury@cox.net.

Saturday, June 6, 10:00 am: Covered trees at Chickahominy Riverfront Park

Join **Charlie Dubay** on a walk around this park to see and identify (given Charlie's unique memory system!) many species of oaks. Also, common hackberry and sugarberry, American and slippery elm, mockernut and pignut hickory, and 3 species of pines are growing here. While Charlie has given us his wildly popular "Nude Tree Walk"

in winter, he promises that all these trees will indeed be covered with their leaves!

For information and to register, contact Charlie Dubay at 870-0284.

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am: Grafton Ponds walk

This Natural Area Preserve, right here in Newport News Park, is Virginia's best example of a coastal plain pond complex, formed when the underlying calcareous deposits dissolved, creating shallow sinkholes above. Several unusual animals (Mabee's salamander) and plants such as southern twayblade, slender spikerush, and water tolerant black gum and overcup oak grow here.

Leader **Meegan Wallace** is an environmental consultant who conducts rare plant surveys, forest inventories, and invasive species mapping for the Department of Defense, which manages more than 25 million acres nationwide and supports more than 300 federally listed species.

Contact Meegan at 757-291-1099 to register and for more information.

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am at the Stonehouse Habitat

Join Landscape Architect **Phillip Merritt** for a walk around the plantings at this elementary school on Rochambeau Road. Phillip has taken responsibility for maintenance of this area, which was established by Jan Newton. Nearly every Saturday he will be working in the garden, ensuring that all the native plants are thriving. Many species should be in full bloom and Phillip can provide ideas about their uses in home gardens.

For information and to register, contact Phillip at phillip.merritt@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 25, 9:30 a.m. to noon: Ford's Colony Trailblazer's swamp boardwalk (Longhill Swamp)

Congregate in the parking lot of Wellspring United Methodist Church, 4871 Longhill Road (a short distance east of 7-ELEVEN store at Old Town Rd. and Longhill Rd.) to carpool. We may leave the boardwalk at times, so it would be a good idea to wear rubber boots unless summer has been droughty. Among the species we will see are log fern (*Dryopteris celsa*), Southern lobelia (*Lobelia georgiana*), climbing hydrangea (*Decumaria barbara*), swamp black gum (*Nyssa biflora*), overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), cherrybark oak (*Q. pagoda*), and swamp chestnut oak (*Q. michauxii*).

Please contact **Donna Ware** at dmeware@verizon.net or 757-565-0657 to register.

and some recent ones...

Freedom Park's much-postponed Weed Walk

The Weed Walk at Freedom Park was rescheduled twice, from March 14 to March 22, and again to March 29, when 20-some cold plant people arrived at the Interpretive Center. I distributed sheets from my Wild-flower Book of the plants in flower that should be visible by now. After 15 minutes of talking and listening in 38 degree weather with a wind, we quickly strolled to the Botanical Garden. In the fields, ditches, gardens, and almost everywhere, Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*) was in full bloom, and starting to set seed. Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) was plentiful also. Not much else.

I had a few examples, collected elsewhere, of some of the plants expected at Freedom Park. Surprisingly, we could not find either Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaula*) or Purple Deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*); both should have been carpeting the fields with their purple flowers by now.

In sunny spots we found a few blooms of Wild Pansy (*Viola bicolor*), Dwarf Bluet (*Houstonia pusilla*), Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*), and Bird's-eye Speedwell (*Veronica persica*). Participants were given a list of "Common Garden Weeds," most of which should have been in full growth by the end of March, but not so. We saw rosettes of Dwarf Dandelion (*Krigia virginica*), English and Virginia Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata/virginica*), and Dwarf Cinquefoil (*Potentilla canadensis*). The leaves of Garden Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) were frequent in many of the garden areas, and someone volunteered to come on a sunny day and pull the vetch from the native strawberry patch.

I cautioned against allowing the highly invasive Asiatic hawk's-beard (*Youngia japonica*) any space in home gardens, since it spreads rapidly by seeds and has a long taproot. A cold spring made for a disappointing plant walk, but everyone learned a little bit more about native and introduced local plants.

Helen Hamilton

Swamp plants

While it is not always an advantage to have a small group on a plant walk, today we were glad to have not more than a dozen people on a walk along the Longhill Swamp. Gus and I met the group at the bus parking area at Lafayette High School on Sunday, April 19 at 1:30 and two hours later we emerged from off-trail walking.



Louise Menges

Bird's-eye Speedwell's
tiny blue flowers



The Longhill Swamp group poses for a photo.

The area is very sensitive, and should not be walked often. Entering we saw bracken fern, netted chain fern, and fiddleheads of cinnamon fern. Southern lady fern, crane-fly orchid, may apple, New York fern, and common ground-pine were seen along the trail. A pawpaw tree was in bloom with leaves just appearing.

Leaving the trail, we saw a large colony of pink lady's-slippers, just blooming. Cautioning the group to watch where they step, we led them down to the lowest area to see Indiana cucumber-root, adder's-tongue fern, golden ragwort, and kidneyleaf crowfoot. Crossing a small wet area, we found the first clump of spring beauty, and across the stream a very large colony of this early spring flower, the ground covered with white flowers as far as could be seen.

The meadow at the bus parking lot produced lots of blooming “weeds” (wildflowers in the wrong place, some native, some introduced).

One member of the group, Meegan Wallace, identified *Carex blanda* (Eastern woodland Sedge) at the start of the walk, and she found southern bluet in the meadow. {Meegan has promised to lead a walk for us soon!} Prolific bloomers are field madder, dwarf bluet, Japanese mazus, and bulbous buttercup.

We are fortunate to have such rich flora nearby, but would not recommend a visit unless accompanied by a knowledgeable plant person. There are many sensitive plants in this area that cannot withstand trampling.

Helen Hamilton and Gus Hall



Adder's-tongue fern
(*Ophioglossum pycnostichum*)

Weed flora on April 14

Donna loves tiny plants! A small group of would-be botanists followed Dr. Donna Ware around a large field near the James City County Recreation Center on Longhill Road. Some plants were easy—most of us could recognize the buttercups, dead-nettles, chickweeds, cudweed, and hairy bittercress. With a list to follow, Donna patiently showed us Virginia plantain, field pansy, Virginia dwarf-dandelion, narrow-leaf vetch, and red sorrel.

But the four species in the Madder Family required some explanation. Apparently tiny bluets have been replaced with southern bluet, a really small white-flowered *Houstonia* with a long flower stalk. Donna said their appearance is a state record for this area. The blue field madder and Piedmont bedstraw have really minute flowers, and the latter is rare in the Coastal Plain, but Donna found it!

The real find of the day was the water-blinks, formerly in the genus *Claytonia*, now named *Montia Fontana*. This extremely small plant was growing in a wet ditch along the road. The group made an interesting sight, kneeling and gazing intently at whatever Donna found for us. And group members found species to add to the list Donna had provided us.

Helen Hamilton

Mulch ado about weed control

Excerpted from an article by Paul Frisbie posted by EcoMyths Alliance on March 1, 2010

Few gardeners enjoy weeding. And many of us are quite dubious about the safety of commercial herbicides, no matter what it may say on the label.

So as an alternative we use mulch, as recommended by Horticulturist Joseph Krol of the Morton Arboretum. And while mulch is a useful weapon against weeds, not all mulches are the same.

Here is a synopsis of Frisbie's advice...Ed.

- **Don't buy cypress mulch** and don't be shy about explaining the cypress mulch issue to your fellow gardeners (see "*The Cypress Crisis*," below).
- Be aware that some mulch will leak poisons into your soil, including **rubber, cocoa shells** and **recycled wood mulch**.



Helen Hamilton

Donna examines a small plant's features using a hand lens.

- Read the label. Make sure that your mulch was made from natural forest products and is certified by the Mulch and Soil Council.
- You can't beat chopped up leaves, if you've got a large supply. They're a natural mulch and a natural fertilizer at the same time. And they're free.
- Make your own compost. Pure, fully-decomposed compost will keep weeds down for a season, while steadily enriching the soil below.
- Don't pile any mulch up against a building. Termites will use it as a highway to termite heaven.
- Don't pile any mulch against the stems or trunks of your trees and plants. It makes it easier for insects and diseases to attack the plant.

The Cypress Crisis

Cypress mulch has been a perennial favorite. But the truth is that cypress mulch isn't what it's made out to be. Its popularity is based upon the idea that cypress mulch contains natural chemicals that fend off insects and resist rot. And it did—back in the days when the mulch was made from full-grown, fully developed, century-old trees.

But that's no longer the case. The demand for cypress timber and mulch has led to an unsustainable over-harvesting of cypress trees, so much so that most cypress mulch now comes from immature trees that have not yet developed the properties that made its mulch so popular in the first place.

And it gets worse. Cypress groves thrive where lowlands meet the ocean, and they protect inland areas from hurricanes by cutting storm surge by as much as 90 percent. They're also the pillars of their local ecosystems, protecting the region from invasive species and helping to maintain proper conditions for the local flora and fauna. A study by the Louisiana Coastal Wetland Science Working Group (SWG) estimates that the lumber in Louisiana's cypress groves would have a one-time value of \$3.3 billion if the groves were harvested.

That sounds like a lot of money until you read the rest of the report. If left in place as hurricane barriers and guardians of the local environment, the same groves are worth \$6.7 billion per year, year in and year out.

Few groves will ever grow back once harvested. Mature cypress trees can live to be more than 1,000 years old, but their seedlings need the freshwater floods that used to replenish the land with fresh layers of silt on a regular basis.



Louise Menges

One of many cypresses growing in and around a swamp crossed by Hickory Signpost Road in James City County

Thanks to more than a century of dam-building, shipping canals and flood control, very little new silt makes it into the cypress groves anymore. Instead of being continually rebuilt, the land is slowly subsiding, and brackish water from the Gulf of Mexico keeps creeping farther inland. The cypress seedlings can't survive.

It's not impossible that our water management practices will change at some time in the future, and that conditions in the cypress groves will change with them. But until that happens, the cypress groves will not regenerate.

According to the Louisiana Forestry Association, loggers are erasing up to 20,000 acres of cypress every year. At that pace Louisiana's best defense against hurricanes will be gone in less than two decades. Without the cypress groves to hold them back, even minor hurricanes could strike like Katrina. Buying cypress mulch just brings the disaster closer.

This is just a portion of that article; to read the entire piece, go to <http://www.ecomythsalliance.org/2010/03/mulching-your-garden-is-good-for-the-environment/>

Botanic Names: A Hairy Subject

Reproduced with permission from the Spring 2015 issue of Potowmack News (www.vnps-pot.org)

How many ways can a botanist say a plant is hairy? Canescent, ciliate, hirsute, hispid, pillose, pubescent, tomentose, villose: this is not a complete list, and most of these can be modified...but to take these in alphabetical order:

Canescent indicates enough usually soft, short hairs to give the plant a gray or hoary color. So *Desmodium canescens* is Hoary Tick Trefoil, and *Scutellaria incana* is Hoary Skullcap.

Ciliate means with a fringe of hairs. In the case of Fringed Loosestrife, *Lysimachia ciliata*, that fringe is only found on the leaf petioles. *Blephilia ciliata*, Downy Wood Mint, is described by *The Flora of Virginia* as having canescent stems, while *Desmodium canescens* has ciliate leaves. Oh, well.

Hirsute indicates a thick covering of stiff hairs. There are lots of plants with this name, of varying hairiness: *Hypoxis hirsuta*, Yellow Star Grass, is pretty visibly hairy; *Cardamine hirsuta*, the non-native Hairy Bittercress, requires more careful observation to find the hairs.

Hispid is like hirsute, but with fewer, stiffer hairs. The invasive exotic grass *Arthraxon hispidus*, Joint Head Grass, has stiff enough hairs for anyone, while Bristly Greenbrier, *Smilax hispida*, pushes beyond merely hairy.

Lanate means woolly, as in Velvet Grass, *Holcus lanatus*, an invasive exotic that is nevertheless very pleasing to the fingers.

Pilose means covered with soft, straight hairs. This is sometimes the case with *Symphotrichum pilosum* var. *pilosum*, which *The Flora of Virginia* describes as having stems that are “pubescent to pilose-hirsute or villous.” Now all we need are definitions of pubescent and villous. Onward!

Pubescent means covered with short, soft hairs, as you can perhaps see in the accompanying photo of Rattlesnake Plantain, *Goodyera pubescens*. So if you feel the stem or leaves of the Downy Yellow Violet, *Viola pubescens*, or examine them with a hand lens, you may detect the hairs there. If those hairs are lacking, you may have a Smooth Yellow Violet, *Viola pennsylvanica*, instead.

Tomentose describes densely matted woolly hairs, like those on the undersides of leaves of Princess Tree, *Paulownia tomentosa*, or Mockernut Hickory, *Carya tomentosa*.

Villous hairs are similarly long and may be shaggy but not matted, as on Hairy Alumroot, *Heuchera villosa*, or Carolina Bushpea, *Thermopsis villosa*.

Add in all the diminutives, like *hirtellum*, *hirsutula*, *hispidulum*, or *puberulum*, and the superlatives like *villoissimum*, and you have a topic that could be described as not just hairy, but tomentose!

Margaret Chatham
Editor, *Powtomack News*

Poison Ivy Love

The article below was in an email from Rod Simmons last month...

Wednesday [April 1] is Poison Ivy Day! This second annual event is the best opportunity to celebrate Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). PI is the most mis-understood and under-appreciated native plant of the mid-Atlantic. Some think it is close to threatened status because it is so widely despised and removed.

Why does PI merit our respect? Master Naturalists will know many reasons. It is a native plant. It has attractive foliage, and in spring, the new foliage has a marvelous, cilantro-like scent. It feeds many animals,



Jan Newton



Fritz Flohr Reynolds

Poison Ivy in bloom

ranging from the White-tailed Deer that eat the leaves, to the many songbirds that eat the winter berries. Its reddish-brown hairy vines ornament many large trees. It feeds many herbivorous insects that in turn feed birds and mammals like Southern Flying Squirrels. In the fall, the leaves turn a lovely scarlet. As the poet sang, “Leaves of three, I praise thee.” Not all humans are allergic to the toxic compound, urushiol, and many sources indicate that no other animals are affected.

Delicious mangoes are a close relative.

PI so impressed early colonists that they shipped it back to their gardens in Mother England, where in some places it continues to thrive. No wonder the English are grateful to their former colonies, who also gave them the beloved Gray Squirrel.

So PI deserves our appreciation and our love. On this special day, try to get out there and dig it (but not literally). Cherish it. If you are not a wimp, sniff it. Better yet, rub it. Eat it. Plant it in your yard. Plant it in your neighbors’ yards! Spread the word that Poison Ivy doesn’t deserve its bad reputation. Teach others about leaves-of-three poetry.

In the unlikely event that you suffer an allergic reaction, please remember the immortal song “Love Hurts.” And don’t try to find me. I’ve moved again and left no forwarding info. I had to go. I felt nature calling...

Steve Young

*Steve Young, aka “Plantwhacker”, “Ivy Man” (English Ivy annihilator), “Frazmo”, and confidant of Mr. Spock (kidding of course on last one!), recently retired from the EPA, is a friend and longtime Arlington County resident, Arlington Regional Master Naturalist instructor, VNPS Potomack Chapter board member, single malt scotch aficionado, and non-native invasive plant removal expert extraordinaire—as well as lots of other good things. He has almost singlehandedly, with the help of regular volunteers, restored Long Branch Park to pre-settlement, pre-disturbance conditions by carefully hand-pulling acres of entrenched English Ivy from the forest—***Rod Simmons**



A **HUGE** Poison Ivy vine!

Eco Discovery Park and our Chapter

Dreams come in all different sizes. Mine tend to be very small, but Steve Rose dreams on a grand and generous scale. His dream began as a young boy in Yorkshire, England where he was involved in a challenging national youth program to encourage experiencing the great outdoors. With the changes in our world's environment, his dream evolved from the idea of an outdoor center for youth to an environmental education center for all ages. As Steve says, "The goal today is to educate people about what they can do and how they play a part in the solutions to our planet's challenges. This Park would be the inspiration and the source of knowledge needed to create the change."



Native wildflowers bloom in Eco Discovery Park.

The Eco Discovery Park, off Jamestown Road near the access to Jamestown Island, is the physical embodiment of this idea. It began operation in January 2012, and it has already transformed the Jamestown Marina into an attractive and environmentally sensitive location. Within its park-like setting, local groups such as the Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Virginia Native Plant Society, Herb Society, and Williamsburg Bird Club have created both an extensive Bird Feeding Station and a Demonstration Garden designed to conserve water, support wildlife, and educate us about sustainable home gardening possibilities. Chesapeake Experience offers kayaking day trips and summer camps, and the Jamestown Discovery Boat Tours books sunset cruises and James River tours. Imagine a larger center that offers environmental learning opportunities such as a weekend workshops to demonstrate installing solar panels to heat your hot water or to describe how to attract butterflies to your garden or to

teach you how to build a straw bale house. Think of the clubs, organizations, sports enthusiasts, and outdoor-oriented families and individuals who would respond to the possibility of a one-day workshop or a convention/meeting that addressed their interests or created new passions.

Now, Eco Discovery Park is at a crossroad. As Steve writes on his website (ecodiscoverypark.org), “We have spent three years creating a place, working on a concept, and proving that many people care about preserving our green spaces for all to enjoy. In order for us to move to our next phase and create the educational component of the park, we need to obtain ownership of the property. This will enable us to apply for grant funding and establish corporate partnerships.”

As you may have read in your local newspapers, the James City County Board of Supervisors is currently reviewing the bids they have received for purchasing the property— one of the bids is from Steve Rose for the Eco Discovery Park and the other two bids are from developers.

Our John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society has a stake in Eco Discovery Park. First, its goals and plans align with our mission. Second, a number of our members have been active in creating both the Native Plant Garden within the Demonstration Garden and the Wild Bird Feeding Station. Our Chapter has also contributed plants remaining after our annual sales to be planted in the park.

If you find the concept, accomplishments, and goals of Eco Discovery Park appealing and worth supporting, we urge you to write to the James City County Board of Supervisors to express your support.

They will meet on May 26, 2015, to make their decision.

James City County Supervisors
101-D Mounts Bay Road
Williamsburg VA 23187-8784
Email: bryan.Hill@jamescitycountyva.gov



Signage at the Park's Wild Bird Feeding Station

Patti Gray

A cold, wet day for our 2015 Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25 dawned chilly and cloudy, although the weather report I had seen the night before didn't predict any precipitation until mid-afternoon. When I arrived at 9 for my morning shift, plant-seekers were already milling around our displays of plants, many of which were under cover of tents—a good thing, since it wasn't long before sprinkles began and then progressed to intermittent rain. But the weather didn't seem to stop folks from attending the sale, and Treasurer Patty Kipps reports gross receipts of about \$5000 with an estimated net of around \$2000.

Louise Menges (Photos: Helen Hamilton)



Mary Turnbull and Adrienne Frank woman the cashier's table.



Joan Etchberger, left, Judith Kator, center front, and Louise Menges, right, with Jordan Erikson and Kourage Craig, two of the members of Boy Scout Troop 103 who helped customers transport their purchases to the cashier and then to their cars. (Notice Jordan's improvised "umbrella"!)



JCC members added to their native plant stocks, too; here, Phillip Merritt prepares to give Patty Kipps a check for his purchase.



Pat Baldwin, right, was a valuable source of information about the plants offered for sale and found himself consulted frequently.



Gary Driscoll, right, helps customers find the right plants for them.

John Clayton Chapter Calendar

- Thursday, May 21** **6:45 pm: John Clayton Chapter meeting** at the **Yorktown Public Library** at the intersection of Battle Road and Route 17. Speaker **Helen Hamilton's** topic will be **"Native Uses for Native Plants."** (See Page 1.)
- Saturday, May 30** **10:00 am: Two for one Plant Walk** around **Edie Bradbury's property** in Gloucester, then on to **Brent and Becky's Bulbs** to meet Rhododendron expert **George McClellan.** (See Page 3.)
- Saturday, June 6** **10:00 am: Covered Trees Walk** in Chickahominy Riverfront Park, led by **Charlie Dubay.** (See Page 3.)
- Saturday, June 13** **10:00 am: Plant walk** around **Grafton Ponds**, a Natural Area Preserve in Newport News Park, led by **Meegan Wallace.** (See Page 4.)
- Saturday, June 20** **10:00 am: A Plant Walk** around the **Stonehouse Habitat**, led by **Phillip Merritt.** (See Page 4.)
- Saturday, July 25** **9:30am to noon: Ford's Colony Trailblazer's swamp boardwalk (Longhill Swamp)** led by **Donna Ware.** (See Page 4.)

There may be walks in the works which did not make this issue, so keep a lookout for announcements about additional walks and other events on our website at vnps.org/johnclayton and in the local newspapers.

Below is a membership renewal form. Please contact Membership Chair **Fred Blystone** at 757/229-4346 or at fredblystone@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