



Claytonia

Newsletter of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

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www.claytonvnps.org

Officers

President Lucile Kossodo
757-565-0769
lkossodo@cox.net

Vice-President Donna Ware
757-565-0657
dmeware1001@gmail.com

Treasurer Alicia Garcia
757-570-3164
alicia.m.garcia81@gmail.com

Secretary Cortney Will
757-291-1500
clangley@plantrescue.org

Committee Chairs

Awards Donna Ware
757-565-0657
dmeware@verizon.net

Hospitality Sara Nugent
757-253-1666
gluistean2001@yahoo.com

Membership and Publicity
Cathy Flanagan
757-879-1997
flanagan.catherine@gmail.com

Nature Camp Libbey Oliver
757-645-7143
lhooliver55@gmail.com

Newsletter Louise Menges
757-229-4346
louisemenges6@gmail.com

Plant Rescue Cortney Will
757-291-1500
clangley@plantrescue.org

Plant Sale Co-chairs
Adrienne Frank
757-566-4009
adrienne-gary@cox.net
Sue Voigt
804-966-8487
svoigt1@cox.net

Plant Walks Vacant

Stonehouse Garden Sue Voigt
804-966-8487
svoigt1@cox.net

Webmaster Phillip Merritt
352-727-1994
phillip.merritt@gmail.com

Our March 15 meeting: "Bay-friendly Gardens & Shorelines"

Gardens and shorelines with native plants help protect the Chesapeake Bay by filtering stormwater runoff and providing erosion protection. VIMS coastal scientist **Karen Duhring** will describe actions that gardeners and waterfront property owners can take to help reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and chemical contaminants entering the Bay.

Karen Duhring is a coastal scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). She has 29 years of experience in coastal & shoreline management. She is also an expert on introducing native plants into landscapes and gardens.



Our speaker, Karen Duhring



A model shoreline

NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE: The meeting will be held at **7 pm on Thursday, March 15**, at the **York County Public Library, 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway (U.S. Rt. 17) at Battle Road** (immediately north of York Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center).

See you there!

From the President



"It looks like spring, feels like spring, but it is supposed to be winter." This is what I wrote last year, but that is not the case this winter. We have had more snow than usual and some terribly cold temperatures along with some warming trends. I do hope that the harsh polar colds did not harm

our plants for the sale. Alas, my own yard does look sad with lots of frostbites on leaves. I am trying to channel my inner spring by imagining some of the first native flowers I see in spring. What comes to my mind first is a little known yellow flower, *Hypoxis hirsuta* (Common Goldstar), which I planted in bareroot form in my yard in late fall and shall see for the first time this year. I am looking forward to seeing it. One of my favorites and an early bloomer is *Sanguinaria canadensis* (Bloodroot). We will have it for our sale and even if it is not perfect now, it will be a joy next spring. That is one fantastic white flower to watch emerge and bloom. I also love to see *Claytonia virginica* (Spring Beauty). How is it that these fragile blooms are hardy and show when the weather can be warm or cold and spring is only beginning? Maybe as you read this, you too can see them blooming. Then come all the many violets that I love because they are butterfly host plants and are a lovely blue everywhere. Unlike in Europe, most of our Coastal Natives are yellow.

Our new team of Plant Sale leaders is working to bring you an exciting sale on **Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10 am–2 pm**. Our team has some new plants for you to purchase this year. One of the plants we will have is the amazingly beautiful *Lilium superbum* (Turk's-cap Lily).

We will also include *Coreopsis pubescens* (Hairy Tickseed). It has lovely notched yellow petals. Another new plant is the groundcover *Chimaphila maculata* (Striped Wintergreen); its stripe gives added interest to this groundcover. Also new is Rue Anemone (*Thalictrum thalictoides*), a white spring ephemeral plant for the shady garden. The last new plant is False Solomon's-seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), which is similar to Solomon's-seal, but its flowers are in a white plume and birds love its bright red berries. Some plants which we did not have for a while and which we will be offering at our sale are: *Baptisia alba* (Wild White Indigo), along with a blue and yellow one; *Dicentra eximia* (Wild Bleeding Heart), with lovely pink and white flowers and delicate leaves; Robin's Plantain (*Erigerum pulchellum*), a plant that was requested last year and which I found in my own yard to share; lavender blue *Symphyotrichum-novi begii* (New York Aster); yellow-centered white *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (Calico Aster); and *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia Bluebells). We do not have a lot of each plant, so if you desire one, be sure to come early.

The sale will be at the same location as last year, the centrally located **Williamsburg Community Building at 401 North Boundary Street**, across from the Williamsburg Library. Like last year, it will happen in one busy day; transport plants, set up the sale, sell, and clean up after the sale. Volunteers are essential to making this happen. Please consider helping us and volunteering to help with one of the



Lucile's photograph of a Turk's-cap Lily

aspects of the sale or, if you are a super hero, helping us all day. One thing is important for you to know—we *would love to have you bring plants from your gardens to sell*. **Please bring them to our final potting party on April 10.** If you are unable to come to this potting party, drop your plants off at my house, 229 West Queens Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185 (cell 757-784-2882). We absolutely cannot accept any plants on the day of the sale, since there will be no time to label, price, and place them. We will also have a Plant Sale List, so if you bring plants on the day of the sale we cannot include them in that list.

Lucile Kossodo

New Members

We welcome **T. J. Geiger**, **Scott Hemler**, and **Liz Newman**, all of Williamsburg, and **Jason Sosebee** of Fredericksburg, to the John Clayton Chapter.

A Spring Rescue Update from Cortney

For being the middle of winter, the Williamsburg Native Plant Rescue Team has actually been pretty busy —busier than I expected!

First off, *Williamsburg Yorktown Daily* did a really nice article on the rescue team recently. You can find that at tinyurl.com/yd5nleud or wydaily.com/local-news/2018/02/16/plant-rescuers-save-native-williamsburgs-natural-history-from-development.

After the article was posted, I received a number of emails from people who are interested in volunteering with the rescue team. It's nice to hear there are like-minded souls out there.

Bain Schultz, the landscape supervisor for Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, was also quoted in the article. For about a year now, we've been partnering with Bain to provide material for her conservation and display gardens, which highlight how the native peoples of the area used plant material for food, medicine and more. Bain told me the other day that the rescue team has provided her with more than 40 species of plants since we've been working together. The number blew my mind!



After a number of years, our outdated logo began to get under my skin. So we recently contracted with designer Thom Pirson on a new logo. It riffs on the “rescue” mission in a fun way and, most importantly for me, includes a shovel. I'm pleased to be unveiling it with you now.

Coming up, we expect to be participating in the Virginia Living Museum's Earth Day celebration on April 21. I hope you'll come visit, check out the green vendors and crafts, and learn more about native gardening and conservation. Also, don't forget to bring your old batteries, cell phones, and sneakers for recycling!

Happy digging,
Cortney Will

Some Upcoming Plant Walks...

Sunday, March 18, 2 pm: Mustards at Freedom Park

Meet **Donna Ware** at **Freedom Park's Botanical Garden**. Her primary focus will be the Mustard Family, especially the cresses, including the native purple cress (*Cardamine douglasii*), spring cress (*Cardamine bulbosa*), and the introduced species famous for its “creasy greens”, *Barbarea verna*. We also should catch the new native plant state record, southern bluet (*Houstonia micrantha*), a white-flowered bluet, carpeting the fields and roadsides.

Contact Donna at dmeware1001@gmail.com or 757-565-0657 for information and to register.

Sunday, March 25, 2 pm: Stalking the Southern Twayblade at the NN Park Discovery Center

Listera australis (Southern Twayblade) is a less common orchid, native in Virginia only in the coastal plain. It is hard to find even when you know where it is, but we will hope to catch it during its short, chilly bloom season. There aren't many things blooming this time of year, but it's still a good time for a walk in the woods, and we'll see what else we can find. We can also scout Lady's-slipper colonies that will bloom a couple of weeks later. The trail is a 2.6 mile loop, but if weather is unpleasant we can double back for a slightly shorter walk. The trail is fairly level and easy.

Meet at **Newport News Park's Discovery Center, Constitution Way**. Use the NNPark entrance at Constitution Way. From Jefferson Ave, turn onto Constitution Way; drive 0.9 mile; the Discovery Center will be on the right (approximate GPS coordinates 37.181682, -76.537173).

Email **Susie Yager** at soozigus@cox.net to register.

Saturday, April 7, 10 am: Matteson Trail Pawpaw, Matteson Trail, Hampton

On this walk we will attempt to catch Pawpaw in bloom. We will also see Cottonwood, Shagbark Hickory, and what appears to be American Elm, as well as lots of Jack-in-the-pulpit. We will walk in for 1 mile and then backtrack to the parking lot—2 miles in all. This is a wide, paved trail, suitable for wheelchair or stroller as well as for sneakers. The area is very damp, so if you wish to follow on the brief off-trail jaunts, waterproof shoes or boots are recommended.

Meet in the parking lot of the **Hampton Performing Arts/Hampton Youth & Aquatic Center, 300 Butler Farm Rd, Hampton, VA**.

Email **Susie Yager** at soozigus@cox.net to register.



Southern Twayblade orchid



A Pawpaw flower

Saturday, April 14, 10 am: A Walk in the Habitat

Look for signs of spring in the native plant garden at **Stonehouse Elementary School, 3651 Rochambeau Drive** (Route 30) in **Toano**. Habitat Caretaker **Sue Voigt** will search for early blooms on the small trees, shrubs and wildflowers and a few early butterflies feeding on nectar. Park in the school bus parking lot near the far end of the school building.

Contact Sue for more information (svoigt1@cox.net; 804-966-8487, or cell 804-815-6085).

Saturday, April 28, 10 am: Baptist Run Area, Newport News Park

Meegan Wallace will lead a walk through the upland and flood plain forests along Baptist Run in the northern portion of Newport News Park. Over 100 species were identified in this area during last year's Bio Blitz! The easy 1.25-mile walk is on a maintained trail, though we may do some off-roading.

From I-64, travel north on Yorktown Road (Rt. 238) for 0.77 mile and turn east onto Crafford Road, which changes to Crawford Road as it enters York County. Meet at the radio tower on Crawford Road, approximately 1.5 miles east of Yorktown Road. To register, contact Meegan at 757-291-1099 or clm003@verizon.net.

Saturday, May 12, 10am: Mountain Laurel Meander at Mariners' Museum Park, Newport News

Enjoy meandering through a natural bower of mature Mountain Laurel with **Susie Yager**. Mountain Laurel is infrequent in Virginia's outer Coastal Plain, but these plants were brought in by the property owner ages ago and positioned near the water's edge. There's no good place along the Noland Trail for close observation, so we will not walk the Noland Trail, but instead follow an older, unimproved trail through the woods, in places steep, soft, or uneven, with loose logs, protruding roots, and fallen trees. Spray feet, ankles and cuffs against ticks and chiggers. We will also see masses of Christmas Fern, Bracken Fern, and Galax, with a smattering of Mayapple and Trailing Arbutus.

Meet at the Mariners Museum Park's meadow area across from Warwick High School's athletic fields. If you're using GPS, go to the Warwick High School Soccer Field on Warwick Blvd, but turn into the meadow *across* from the soccer field. Email Susie at soozigus@cox.net to register.

Saturday, June 9, 10 am: Campus Trees

Join **Beth Chambers** for a walking tour of the **College of William and Mary** campus, highlighting the history of campus trees and recent restorations in the Crim Dell meadow area.

Meet at the front of W&M's **Wren Building** at the west end of Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg.

Contact Beth at 757-221-2213 to register and for more information.



Mountain Laurel blooms

...and Other Events

Help at Another Potting Party (and at the Plant Sale)!

Volunteers are needed for the final **Potting Party** on **April 10** (rain date **April 12**) at **1 pm** at **100 Woodland Road, Williamsburg (Joan Etchberger's)** and on the day of the sale, **April 28** (from 7 am to transport plants until cleanup before 4 pm).

Sign up at the March 15 meeting or contact

Cathy Flanagan (flanagan.catherine@gmail.com) or **Sue Voigt** (svoigt1@cox.net).



Tuesday, March 13: Phillip Merritt on Spring Ephemerals

Phillip Merritt, long-time JCC member, will give a presentation on Spring Ephemerals for the **Peninsula Master Naturalist** chapter at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 13. The meeting is at **Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 1255 Big Bethel Rd, Hampton VA**. Phillip gave this wonderful presentation at the PMN chapter's request 3 years ago, and now with so many new members, the chapter requested a repeat performance. Visitors are welcome to attend; there is no fee. The PMN chapter holds its monthly meeting at 6pm, so please file in quietly; Phillip's presentation will begin around 7 pm.



Bloodroot

Plant Profile: Tree Flowers

After a cold January and dreary February, it's always a joy to watch the buds on twigs begin to swell and open. Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials produce growth-inhibiting hormones that respond to short days and long nights to initiate dormancy. As the days get longer again other hormones are synthesized that start new metabolic activity, and buds start sprouting.

Many of our native trees produce flowers before the leaves—they are usually pollinated by the wind, and their flowers are often catkins with tiny scales, not showy petals. Leaves come later, after the wind has carried pollen to other trees. Alders, elms, willows, and poplars are familiar examples.

Gardeners know that to expect berries on their hollies, there often must be male trees nearby. Distribution of sexes is a major variable in our trees and shrubs. In some, both male (stamens) and female (pistils) are present in each flower and the flowers are termed “perfect” or bisexual. In other groups, the individual plant bears both flowers with only fertile stamens and others with only fertile pistils—termed a monoecious plant, from Greek meaning “one household.” In other groups the individual plants bearing exclusively male or only female flowers and are termed dioecious. Hollies and maples may blur this distinction by having perfect and unisexual flowers on the same individual.

Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) trees are dioecious; male and female catkins are produced on different trees. Likewise, Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) produces male and female catkins on separate trees about the same time the leaves begin to emerge. The catkins can be wind-pollinated, but bees and flies also visit the flowers for nectar or pollen.

Other familiar species are monoecious, producing both male and female flowers on the same tree. Alder (*Alnus serrulata*) has male flowers in dangling catkins and the female flowers are short cone-like spikes located below. Oaks produce male catkins in drooping clusters, and the female flowers that will form the acorn and cup are solitary or in a spike with few flowers. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is another monoecious plant with male flowers in clustered, drooping heads and females on short stalks. These are unisexual flowers—only male or female organs but not both.



Male and female flowers of American Beech



Male flowers of a Loblolly Pine

Among conifers Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) is conspicuously monoecious. Young female cones are yellow and near the growing point of the twig; mature female cones are large and woody. The pollen released by the tiny male cones in early spring covers surfaces with a yellowish powder. Researchers have found the pollen can travel as far as 1,800 miles from its source, and remains viable despite exposure to moisture, cold, and UV radiation from sunlight. Pine pollen is suspected of causing allergic reactions, although very few people are affected. Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is also conspicuously dioecious—male trees produce yellow pollen and female trees produce berry-like cones that are recognizable

from many yards away. The female shrubs of High-tide Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) are glorious in fall, with cottony bristles on the seeds that give the entire plant

a striking, satiny white appearance until early winter. The nearby male shrubs had flowers that were smaller and beige-yellow—they fade as the female flowers bloom.

Although the usually unisexual flowers of Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) are small, individual trees become quite conspicuous as they begin to show color by early March. Male flowers contain anthers on thin filaments, and female flowers develop into the familiar winged fruit, the samara. This plant is a shape-shifter—individual trees can develop all male flowers, all female flowers, or both male and female flowers on the same tree, and they can change sex under certain conditions.



Helen Hamilton



Helen Hamilton

Red Maple's male flowers, left, and the samaras developed from female flowers, right

Relatively few of our flowering trees have large, conspicuous bisexual flowers that appear before the leaves and are pollinated by insects, not by wind. In Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) the individual flowers are in a small cluster surrounded by large white bracts. In this photo from the Native Plant Society of New Jersey's website, the stamens show the anthers bearing pollen, but the pistils of the same flowers are immature, preventing self-pollination.



www.npsnj.org

A Dogwood flower (inset: closeup of its stamens and pistils)



Helen Hamilton

Redbud flowers (and a couple of seedpods from the previous year)

the summer will be transformed into flattened brown seedpods. The flowers are pollinated primarily by bees—honeybees, bumblebees, and mason bees—attracted to both nectar and pollen.

Plants have evolved many and various ways of reproducing themselves. Because tree flowers are small and often inconspicuous compared to their leaves, they can be overlooked. After the buds break and pollination occurs, the seeds are set for a new generation.

Helen Hamilton and Gustav Hall

A note from our President: We are looking for a Coordinator for our John Clayton Chapter Walks.

We need a volunteer who would be able to coordinate our John Clayton Chapter monthly walks. The responsibilities of the coordinator include choosing a designated leader for the walks and communicating with the Publicity Chair. The coordinator does not have the obligation to go on walks; he or she will appoint a plant expert to lead walking groups. Together, the Coordinator and the leader of the walk set the walk's date and discuss the route. Then, the Coordinator will send the information containing the date and a brief description of the walk to the Publicity Chair, who will inform the public about this event. Becoming a Coordinator is a great way to be involved in our chapter's work. If you have more questions, please contact the President of the John Clayton Chapter, **Lucile Kossodo**, at lkossodo1@gmail.com.

VNPS
Plant Walk

John Clayton Chapter Calendar

- Tuesday, March 13** 7 pm: **Phillip Merritt**, long-time JCC member, will give a presentation on **Spring Ephemerals** for the **Peninsula Master Naturalist** chapter at **Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 1255 Big Bethel Rd, Hampton VA**. Visitors are welcome to attend; there is no fee. (See Page 6.)
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- Sunday, March 25** 2 pm: **Stalking the Southern Twayblade at the NN Park Discovery Center**
Join **Susie Yager** on this walk along a trail in Newport News Park to look for early-blooming wildflowers, including Southern Twayblade orchid.
Email Susie at soozigus@cox.net to register. (See Page 4 for details and directions.)
- Saturday, April 7** 2 pm: **Matteson Trail Pawpaw, Matteson Trail, Hampton**
Susie Yager will lead this walk to catch Pawpaw in bloom. She also expects to see Cottonwood, Shagbark Hickory, and American Elm, as well as lots of Jack-in-the-pulpit.
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Contact Sue for more information (svoigt1@cox.net, 804-966-8487, or cell 804-815-6085). (See Page 5.)
- Saturday, April 28** 10 am–2 pm: **John Clayton Chapter's Annual Plant Sale** at the **Williamsburg Community Building, 401 North Boundary Street**, across from the Williamsburg Library.
- Saturday, April 28** 10 am: A walk in the **Baptist Road** area of **NN Park**. **Meegan Wallace** will lead a walk through the upland and flood plain forests along Baptist Run in the northern portion of Newport News Park. To register, contact Meegan at 757-291-1099 or clm003@verizon.net. (See Page 5 for details and directions.)
- Saturday, May 12** 10 am: **Mountain Laurel Meander at Mariners' Museum Park, Newport News**
Susie Yager will lead a walk through Mariner's Museum Park in Newport News to view Mountain Laurel and other wildflowers and ferns. Email Susie at soozigus@cox.net to register. (See Page 5 for details and directions.)
- Saturday, June 9** 10 am: **Campus Trees**. Join **Beth Chambers** for a walking tour of the **College of William and Mary** campus, highlighting the history of campus trees and recent restorations in the Crim Dell meadow area. Meet in front of W&M's **Wren Building**.
Contact Beth at 757-221-2213 to register and for more information. (See Page 5.)

Keep a lookout for announcements about additional walks and other events in the local newspapers and on our website at www.vnps.org/johnclayton.

Below is a membership renewal form. Please contact Membership Chair **Cathy Flanagan** at 757-879-1997 or at **flanagan.catherine@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