

Fall 2015 Newsletter

New River Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

Meetings for 2015

Sunday, September 20. Picnic at Wong Park in Blacksburg. Open to members and non-members. We provide paper plates, cups, utensils, and some drink. *Bring a dish to share.* Food was great last year.

You will want to attend because Dave Darnell has been working hard on our New River Chapter sign to be posted at Wong Park. He will have a mockup ready for our review and comments. This sign costs a lot, so please give us your ideas before it goes to print. It will be permanent advertising for the VNPS and our chapter.

Schedule for picnic:

4 to 4:30 pm	Board Meeting
4:30 pm	arrive, give input on sign
5 pm	eat
5:30	see what flowers are blooming

Sunday, October 4, 4 pm. Radford Public Library. Greening the Earth-500 Million Years of Progress.

Talk by Dr. Stephen Scheckler. Fossil plants and animals will be used to illustrate the 500 million year history of land colonization by green plants and the emergence of major plant groups and their life strategies. He will bring some fossils for you to examine.

Join us for dinner with the speaker and his wife after the program (somewhere in Radford).

Starting in November, New Meeting Site

We will return to the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm beginning with our November program, but at a *new location, the Community Center at Warm Hearth in Blacksburg.*

Tuesday, November 10, 7 pm. Megan O'Rourke, Assistant Professor in the Horticulture Department will tell us about her work with wildflowers at Kentland Farm.

Tuesday, December 8, 7 pm. Our annual sharing meeting. Bring slides (digital or regular), names of websites, and—new this year—titles of books you think other members would like to know about.

Fall Election

We need to elect 3 people to be on our governing board at our October meeting. The candidates are:

Brenda Graff, John Ford, and
(*your name here*).

Yes, you still have a chance to join our illustrious board! Don't be shy, just volunteer. Our current officers have one more year to serve. They are: President, Mary Rhoades; Vice President, Beth Lancaster; Secretary, Dave Jenkins; Treasurer, Carl Hansen.

Fall Outings

We have only one trip to announce right now. If you want to lead an outing, just contact Mary Rhoades at mrhoades@vt.edu. We can send out details via our list serve.

Sat., September 26, 9 am to 5 pm: Explore the Mt. Lake area in search of bogs with Dave Darnell. And learn some of the other plants common on the mountain. **You must register with the Town of Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Dept.** to go on this trip. Fee is \$5 for residents/ \$10 for non-residents. Program No. is 130201-WL. Find more details on their website, or call the Blacksburg Community Center on Patrick Henry Drive.

Preview of Meetings for 2016

February 9. *Tentative.* A student in the VT Biology Department will give us an overview of his research on rhododendron evolution.

March 8. The other pollinators. Jaqueline Brown, a student in the VT Entomology Dept., will give us tips on how to attract hymenoptera other than honeybees to our yards (nesting requirements, etc.), and talk about methods used to identify them.

April 12. Ian Caton of Enchanters Garden Native Plant Nursery will return for another talk and to deliver the plants you ordered.

Outings for 2016

We hope to visit some Natural Area Preserves in the SW region of our state that are noted for their flora. If you have a place to suggest, let us know.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT. 9-11 IN BLACKSBURG

Yes. Our chapter will host the state meeting next year. Several of you are attending the one in Staunton this September. There is very little "meeting" time at these events. Most of the weekend is spent on field trips.

It is a big job hosting the Annual Meeting, but I believe we are up to the challenge. The insert page with this newsletter has a progress report on our planning for next year. Here is my proposed timeline for completing tasks:

- By Oct. 31 Choose at least 75% of the field trips to be offered next year
- Oct. to Dec. Pick the two banquet speakers
- Jan. to Feb. Select a caterer
- Feb to Mar. Add needed field trips
- End of Mar. Have all information ready to give to the state office to send out to membership for registering for meeting
- July/Aug. Prepare info for packets (driving directions to field sites; list of restaurants in Bburg; map of Bburg, etc.)

To Nonmembers: We definitely would appreciate your help with our Annual Meeting next year. I know Master Naturalists have heard a lot of different instructors, so you can probably give us some suggestions for people who would be good banquet speakers. And plan to use some of your required volunteer hours to help us that weekend. *Thanks!*