

New River News

August 2018

New River Chapter, VNPS

Fall Programs

Please mark your calendars now. ALL of our meetings for fall 2018 and for winter/spring 2019 will be on the **2nd Tuesday of each month**. Keep in mind that we do not hold a meeting in January. We will again be meeting at the Village Center at Warm Hearth. However, we will be in a **NEW meeting room**. The large room in which we used to meet will now be taken over for a monthly dinner for residents. We will be in the room labelled “**Woodland Studio**,” which you reach by walking straight ahead once you enter the building. It is a smaller room than we had before, but should accommodate us. Another big change is that we will now have to pay a fee each time we use a room.

Sept. 11 - The Blue Ridge Parkway--Botanical Treasure and Avian Hideaway (Butch Kelly)

Butch Kelly is an associate member of our Chapter, and well known to many of you. He is often seen out at Falls Ridge Preserve where he is a volunteer. Butch used to work as a parkway ranger and will draw upon his expertise for this program that is an ecological trip through several habitats found along the parkway. It will cover riparian areas, meadows, forest edge, and forest canopy; what plants are important and why, and how the plants and birds affect one another.

Oct. 9 - Research on *Hedyotis* (Dr. Suman Neupane)

Our speaker is a postdoctoral student in the Dept. of Biology at Virginia Tech. According to the [Flora of Virginia](#), “The generic limits of *Houstonia*, *Hedyotis*, *Oldenlandia*, and *Stenaria* remain unclear.” If you look up the genus *Hedyotis* in the index of the Flora, it says “see *Houstonia*.” Dr. Neupane will discuss the current status of *Hedyotis*.

Nov. 13 - Tree Islands at Alpine Zones of Glacier National Park, Montana (Dr. Lynn Resler)

Dr. Resler is a plant ecologist in the Geography Dept. at Virginia Tech. She has research sites scattered around the U.S., including in the Dolly Sods area of West Virginia. Her talk for us will focus on research at Glacier National Park. Clusters of trees surrounded by a dissimilar type of vegetation are known as ‘tree islands’. Vegetation patterns at ecotones, including alpine treelines, are often comprised of tree islands. In this talk she will examine the flora, biodiversity, and pattern–process relationships of

tree islands at alpine treelines in Glacier National Park, Montana, where trees are close to their environmental limits.

Dec. 11 – Learning from Each Other

Each December we invite members and nonmembers to take a few minutes to share something they think will be of interest to other plant lovers. It can be photos from a trip, an interesting website or app, a new book, etc. There is no schedule. We just take turns. Even if you have nothing more advanced than the old 2x2 slides, you can still join in because we have a projector that can handle them.

All About Us

Exactly who are we? The New River Chapter covers a seven-county area, so I thought it might be of interest to give some demographics of our membership. The number of members in the Chapter varies, but right now we have 72 members. We are split 31 male to 41 female members. Our official coverage area is Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe Counties, and the City of Radford.

The breakdown by locale in order of most members to least is: Montgomery County=47; Pulaski=7; Radford City=4; Roanoke City=3; Roanoke Co., Carroll Co., and Craig Co.=2 each; Bland, Floyd, Giles=1 each. We do not have any members from Wythe County right now. Members farther afield include 1 in Herndon, VA, and 1 in Greensboro, NC.

And how did our Chapter get started? This information comes from Jan Spahr who became a member the first year, and saved all of her Chapter newsletters. The first organizational meeting was held in November of 2006. At that meeting the first officers and board were elected, and an annual budget was voted on. David Jones was the first president. The fire pink was chosen as the Chapter flower, and the first few newsletters were called “The Apical Meristem.”

Records of our past history may be a bit sparse now, but our future looks bright because past president David Darnell has volunteered to be our first Chapter historian! So, if you have important items that are related to our Chapter, please contact David at gary_david@verizon.net or 731-4341.

Just Around the Corner: Officer Elections

Terms for all of our officers are up in October. Our current officers are: President, Mary Rhoades; Vice President (empty); Secretary, Dave Jenkins; Treasurer, Carol Schwobel. The following people have agreed to be on the ballot this fall: President, ???; Vice President, Mary Rhoades; Secretary, Dave Jenkins; Treasurer, Carol Schwobel. For some reason, we always have trouble finding someone willing to run for president. There are many members qualified to lead this organization, and it is a rewarding job. Remember, *someone has to do it*, or else our Chapter cannot continue. So, if you are asked to be a candidate, please say YES.