

Spring 2016 Newsletter

New River Chapter

Virginia Native Plant Society

Last Monthly Program This Spring

Tuesday, April 12, Warm Hearth. Ian Caton from Enchanters Garden Native Plant Nursery will be here, delivering plants and giving a short talk. The schedule for that evening:

4:30 Ian arrives at the Community Center and meets with Warm Hearth residents who have ordered plants. VNPS members: if you want to come early and pick up your plants, you may.

5:30 We meet at El Mariachi to have dinner with Ian. Everyone welcome.

6:45 Back to Warm Hearth. Ian will begin selling plants to VNPS members. When he is done, he will speak to our group. There is no special title to his talk. I left it up to him to decide what he wants to talk about.

7:15 Ian's talk.

We usually don't have any regular programs between April and September, but I hope to arrange at least one talk at Warm Hearth for sometime this summer. If you have a suggestion for a program, let me know. Because we are hosting the big statewide VNPS Annual Meeting here September 9-11, *we will not start our regular monthly programs next fall until October.*

Progress for the September Conference

Thank you all, who have helped with organizing the event and volunteered to help. A list of the field trips we have planned, and their leaders, is included with this newsletter, as a separate file.

We still need a leader for the Saturday afternoon garden tour, and for a trip to Wildwood Park on Sunday morning. Leaders meet their group at the hotel, make sure all participants are present, and accompany the group to the site and back.

In the summer we will deal with final details for the meeting: rounding up people to help with registration, finding the best audio/visual equipment rental for Friday and Saturday evenings (the hotel does not have a projector or a screen), writing the content for the information packets that go to all registrants. Your input is welcome now, if you have suggestions.

Volunteer Opportunity To Learn Geology

If you want to volunteer at the Earth Sciences Museum at Radford University, get in touch with Stephen Lenhart before April 1. Phone: 540/831-5257. Email slenhart@radford.edu. He will be setting up training classes for new volunteers this spring.

Treasurer

Right now I am acting as treasurer for our Chapter, as well as president! A bit too much. Our Chapter has little activity as far as finances go. We receive a check every month from the state, when a member joins, or someone renews membership. We write very few checks. Sometimes for an expense like a newsletter, or payment for an out-of-town speaker. As far as income tax reporting, we are poor enough that the IRS does not require us to file (annual budget less than \$5,000), so our status at the federal level is fine. I have yet to hear from the state tax people about our status, but that should be worked out soon. So—step up and volunteer!

Your Eyes and Ears

Keep them open! Now is the time to be thinking about possible speakers and programs for next year. We have a couple of regular programs that we do every year—the December “share your photos” event, and the April one where Ian Caton comes and brings his plants and usually gives a talk. That means for next year we only need to plan programs for October, November, February, and March. Three people have already said they will give a presentation, so *we only need ONE more*. We like to have all programs set by August, when our fall newsletter comes out. Give us your ideas.

Officers for 2016-2017

Yes, now is the time to be thinking about members to run in the fall election. Terms end next October for FOUR of our board members: Mary Rhoades, Dave

Jenkins, Carl Hansen (already resigned), and Beth Lancaster. There are usually only three board meetings per year—not a big time commitment.

Spring Outings

I am sending the **REVISED** list of outings as a separate file. Please save it because it includes *where and when to meet*. Note: there has been a change of date for one outing, and a new trip has been added. All outings are on Saturdays.

Plans for Summer Fun

Mountain Lake Biological Station will be open for classes late May to late July. They have a **seminar** every Tuesday and Thursday that is open to the public. I will be checking the topics to find one our group would like to hear, then I will arrange for us to carpool up there. The seminars start at 8 pm.

Open House at the Biological Station will be Saturday, June 25. We should plan on attending that event also. It would be great if we had a “presence” there that day. Offering to lead a wildflower hike would be a good thing to do. We will want to check out what is blooming anyway, right? Volunteers?

Geology of Appalachian Whitewater

The Department of Geosciences at VT has outreach programs open to the public. The talk (title above) will be Thursday, **April 7, from 7 -8:30 pm in Room 4069 Derrington**. Check out other outreach programs on their website: www.geos.vt.edu.

