**Coastal Plain Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter\_               May 2014**

Additional details online at <https://www.sites/google.com/site/vanativeplantsociety/>

**Saturday, May 10th- SHRC VNPS PLANT SALE** at 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at the Norfolk Botanical Garden in conjunction with the Mother’s Day Weekend Event.  6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk.  Regular NBG admission rates apply to enter the garden. Additional information and details on our website.

**Saturday, May 17th - Friends of Indian River Road Park Planting.** Come out and assist installing native plants at the park entrance. From 9 am to Noon at the park entrance at Rokeby Ave. and Main St. (2001 Rokeby Ave.) Help plant 30 native trees and shrubs around the new parking area in Indian River Park.  This is the first phase of installing demonstration native plant gardens at the park; the second phase will be in September. Please wear closed-toe shoes, a hat and bring work gloves.  If you can, bring shovels, rakes, and other gardening tools helpful in planting.  We will have water and lots of snacks.  (We also always encourage folks to bring their own water in reusable bottles to minimize use of plastic bottles).  Participants under 18 years of age must have adult supervision.

**Saturday, June 14th - Paradise Creek Nature Park Guided Tour at 11:30 AM in Newport News** (carpooling available). Pack a picnic lunch and water too! Get some fresh air and see all of nature in this sweet setting.

**Friday - Sunday, October 17 - 19th : at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center. South Hampton Roads will host the 2014 State Virginia Native Plant Annual Meeting.** We hope to have tours in many of our local parks and gardens, including First Landing State Park, False Cape, Northwest River Park, Hermitage, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Zuni, Dismal Swamp, Pleasurehouse Point, and other locations.  We will need South Hampton Roads Chapter members to participate to make this a successful event. Please call Steve at 757-486-5485  to inquire how you can assist with this worthwhile event. Steve will have a report at our next meeting on the status of his committee work.

**President’s Message:**What a busy spring it has been! Our two plants sales went quite well and we still ran out of some favorite plants! Another order has been made to have additional pollinators will be sampling nectar plants and providing host plants to butterflies. Thank you to so many of you that came out to the Francis Land House and the Norfolk Botanical Garden for their plant sale. We met some very nice people who are discovering native plants and all of their benefits. Not only do they provide a place for caterpillars to eat and grow for the birds to feed their young but many of the native plants conserve soil and help slow erosion and catch sediment so not to fill our waterways. There is a native plant that could perform an important function in your landscape and provide year after year of beauty to your yard. Protect the future of our environment and plant a native!

Our Wildflower of the Year is Coral Honeysuckle - Lonicera sempervirens which was illustrated by Amy as a poster for the society's exhibits. She is so talented! Thanks Amy. The local paper, *The Virginian Pilot*, interviewed Amy for a lead up story for the annual plant sale. The article was in the past Sunday newspaper in March. Go Amy!