**Coastal Plain Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter: VNPS                August 2014**

**Saturday, September 13th** – ***Fall Festival*** at the Oceana Exchange from 10 AM – 2 PM.

**Saturday, September 20th** – **Master Gardener’s *Fall Festival*** at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center from 10 AM – 3 PM. Milkweed, butterfly plant, host & nectar plants for the pollinators will be for sale by many of the groups.

**Thursday, September 25th** – Membership Meeting: **1000 Native Trees Program** by the Lynnhaven River Now organization. We meet in the Holly Room at 7 PM at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Just delivered to our chapter, the [Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](http://www.nps.gov/planTs/alien/pubs/midatlantic/index.htm) book came in which we will offer **free** to all members who come to our September 25th membership meeting at 7 PM at the Norfolk Botanical garden in the Holly Room. No admission price required for attendance to our monthly meetings. Details of our State Annual Meeting will follow. Please join us and the many people who are learning about the benefits of native plants.

**Saturday, October 11th** – The **Lynnhaven River Now’s *Fall Fest*** on October 11th on 19th Street and Cypress Avenue during the ***Fresh Market Festival.*** If you enjoy yummy food, a great family atmosphere and what to help the environment then mark your calendars.

**Friday - Sunday, October 17 - 19th - South Hampton Roads Chapter** will host the **2014 State Virginia Native Plant Annual Meeting.** The event willat the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center.We have tours to many of our local parks and gardens, including First Landing State Park, False Cape, Northwest River Park, Norfolk Hermitage Museum & Gardens, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Dismal Swamp, Pleasurehouse Point, and many other locations. **Add the program below & edit this story so to include program highlights only**. Steve will have a report at our next meeting on the status of his committee work.

**President’s Message**: Hope everyone is enjoying this most pleasant summer weather. The hot weather has eluded us for some weeks but alas it has finally arrived with the butterflies as they emerge from their slumber. All those who purchased milkweed and butterfly weed will soon see the cycle of the butterflies and other pollinators take over the garden. The Butterfly Society is currently selling milkweed and butterfly weed if you want to add these most beneficial plants to your garden. Additional plant sales will be held at through the Butterfly Society during the month of August and September. You can check out details on their website. <http://butterflysocietyofva.org/>

Not only do these plants provide a place for caterpillars to eat and grow but these host plants provide an eating place for the caterpillars which are food for the birds to feed their young. In addition, many native plants conserve soil by helping slow down erosion, catch and trap 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!

Sarah from Paradise Creek Nature Park in Newport News gave a personal tour to Brenda Radford and her sister in June which they enjoyed thoroughly. The coral honeysuckle vines our chapter donated last spring to the garden looks wonderful! We also donated $100 to their education program. **Add any info you want to Brenda in this space. If you want to add a picture please feel free to do so. Thanks!**

Our chapter donated $300 for the printing of brochures for the ***WET Program*** for elementary school children participating at *The Hermitage Museum and Gardens* in Norfolk. We also donated $150 to the Friends of Indian River organization for their park plantings and three bald cypress trees left over from the spring plant sale. **Double check donation amounts from either Pat or Kathleen. Thanks!**

Our order for the [Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](http://www.nps.gov/planTs/alien/pubs/midatlantic/index.htm) book came in which we will offer **free** to all members who come to our September 25th **membership meeting** at 7 PM at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Not a member? Please join our society for your free book and a wealth of information on Virginia’s native plants and find out what’s the big deal? We will learn about Lynnhaven River Now’s promotion of their ***1000 Natives Trees*** program.

We will sell this book for $5.00 at our future community booth visits for the ***Fall Festival*** on September 13th at Oceana Exchange to the **Master Gardener’s *Fall Festival*** at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center on September 20th to the oceanfront area on 19th Street for the **Lynnhaven River Now’s *Fall Fest*** on October 11th.

Please visit our website at <http://www.vnps.org> for additional details and further references for your interests. Have a stupendous summer sweet society friends and guests!

Hope you get to splash in the saltwater and soak up the sun,

Splashing from the sweat from my brow,

Beth

Wild about native plants!