**Coastal Plain Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter: VNPS        September 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 will be presented. We will meet in the Holly Room at 7 PM at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Just delivered to our chapter, is the [Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](http://www.nps.gov/planTs/alien/pubs/midatlantic/index.htm) book which we will offer **free** to all members who come to our September 25th membership meeting. Not a member? Please join us foe the evening to see if you like what you hear and see at our meeting. No admission price required for attendance to our monthly meetings. Details of our State Annual Meeting will follow. Please join us who love to learn how to protect our precious ecosystem by planting native plants and share the many benefits of native plants with you. Your wildlife- butterflies, moths and hummingbirds will thank you!

**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 and homemade crafts then please join us for a friendly family atmosphere one block from the Virginia beach convention Center. Learn what your family can do to help the environment!

**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 and registration form 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.

**Friday - Sunday, January 31st – February 2nd, 2015 –** Flower & Garden Expo 2015: ***Curb Appeal: It’s Out Front That Counts*** We will have a double booth as usual and anyone is welcomed to participate with the booth or stand in the booth to greet and answer questions. We always have two to three people at a time to handle the crowds and their many questions about native plants.

**President’s Message**: Hope everyone enjoyed their summer weather because we lucked out kind folks with very little weather in the high nineties for long. I work outside for two jobs to make a living and I could feel the difference! The butterflies have finally emerged from their slumber and it is wonderful to see them in all my gardens. I hope that all those that purchased milkweed and butterfly weed enjoyed the cycle of the butterflies and other pollinators taking over their gardens. 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 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!

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! Brenda has gone to a lot of work to put our website together for your reference to native plants and other interesting topics.

I am excited about the many events this fall season because it is fun for me to promote native plants to those who do not know or want to learn more. Have a terrific September folks and thank you for supporting our mission to preserve native plants in Virginia.

Beth

Wild about native plants!