**Coastal Plain Talk of the South Hampton Roads Chapter: VNPS        October 2014**

**Saturday, October 11th** – The **Lynnhaven River Now’s *Fall Fest*** on October 11th on 19th Street and Cypress Avenue during the ***Fresh Market Festival.*** 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. Check out the website and register by October 15, 2014.

**Thursday, October 23rd**- No meeting due to time at state conference & field trips

**Saturday, November 8th**- Annual Fall Canoe Trip will be on Muddy Creek and extend to North Bay in Virginia Beach. The put-in and take out will be at:

 Blue Pete's Restaurant

 1400 Muddy Creek Road

 Virginia Beach, VA. 23456

 PH # (757) 426-2278

Participants may choose to meet at Blue Pete's at 9:30 AM. Those driving from western locales can meet at 8:30AM at: Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church on 3488 Godwin Blvd., Suffolk, VA 23434

Please arrive in time to arrange car pools and move boats to canoe trailers etc. Please dress appropriately for the weather. PLEASE BRING:

 1) Boats, paddles, life vests

 2) Lunch, snacks and beverages

 3) Sunscreen and insect spray

 4) Extra set of clothes in waterproof bag

Since Blue Pete's is allowing us to use their parking area and boat ramp we feel some obligation to patronize their restaurant. They have reserved a room for us so we may remain together. Please let us know if you need a partner or boat and we will attempt to match you with someone. Also let us know if you plan to paddle with us and where you plan to meet us that morning.

 If you have any questions or concerns please call us at:

 HOME: (757) 934-0588

 BYRON'S CELL: (757) 705-2035

 JEAN'S CELL: (757) 651-5300

We look forward to hearing from you, Byron and Jean

**Thursday, November 20th** – Helen Kuhns from *Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation* will give us a slideshow presentation on Hoffler Creek Park. We meet at 7 PM in the Holly Room at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

**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 everyone is welcome to participate with the booth or stand in the booth to greet and answer questions. We always have two to three people per shift to handle the crowds and their many questions about native plants. This is a great opportunity to learn yourself what natives can do to improve your landscape!

**President’s Message**:  The ***Fall Festival*** at the Oceana Exchange in September was a chance for us to get the word out on native plants to the military. The **Master Gardener’s *Fall Festival*** at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center was a great day. Beautiful weather with lots to see and buy and so much to eat! Many classes on gardening were held also. It was a great reunion day for many of us in the horticulture industry. Come out on to Lynnhaven River Organization’s **Fall Festival** on October 11th. Learn what your family can do to keep the Lynnhaven River clean and restore living shorelines by supporting their cause. Congratulations on the *500 Native Tree Grant Program* which was so successful for the Lynnhaven River Now Organization!

We are preparing the final details for our turn at hosting the *Virginia Native Plant Society State Conference* here in Virginia Beach. Check out the website for all of the details. Hope to see you there! <http://www.vnps.org>

**Plant a native plant this autumn!** 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) books came in which we will sell this book for $5.00 at our future community booth. Please visit our website at <http://www.vnps.org> for additional details and further references for your interests. Wild about native plants! Beth