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

**Thursday, December 4th**- The *Gathering of the Gardeners Potluck Dinner* is from 6-9 PM at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Bring something to share and join the other organizations that meet at and support the Garden. After socializing and dinner, we will be able to drive through the *Garden of Lights* display. Please RSVP to Kathleen Stasulis: 757-486-5485 or stasulisss@hotmail.com by November 30th.

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**- *Winter Tree ID Education Walk* at Paradise Creek Nature Park from 9-10:30 am. Join Chesapeake Master Gardener Ed Bradley on a journey through the woods and learn about the native trees to our area and valuable skills to identifying trees throughout the winter when leaves are absent. Not recommended for children. This program will be outdoors, and involve a slow paced easy walk FREE, Register in advance: 757-399-7487 or ssumoski@elizabethriver.org

**Saturday, December 13th**- *Friends of Indian River* will have an event to remove Invasive vines at Indian River Park from 9:30 AM to Noon. They will be mainly cutting English Ivy that has grown up trees. This will prevent the ivy from creating fruit and creating new outbreaks in the park. Please wear closed-toe shoes, a hat and bring work gloves; we recommend long pants and long sleeved shirts. Bring pruning clippers, loppers, screwdrivers (which are amazingly useful in prying ivy off tree trunks) and/or pruning saws if you have them. We'll have water and snacks available. Participants under 18 years of age must have adult supervision. Meet at the park entrance at Rokeby Ave. and Main St. (2001 Rokeby Ave.) which is located just south of Military Highway, i.e. across Military Highway from the Fire Station.

**Monday, January 19-Friday, January 23, 2015**-Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course schedule and information found at <http://www.mahsc.org/classes/> Great training and certification exams available.

**Wednesdays, January 21-February 25, 2015**-VOICES Course 2015: Volunteers as Chesapeake Stewards Adult Education Program from 6-9PM at the Brock Environmental Center, 3663 Marlin Bay Drive in Virginia Beach overlooking the mouth of the Lynnhaven River into the Chesapeake Bay. Learn to be an active watershed steward with many dynamic speakers and educational field trips. For more information and registration go online at <http://www.cbf.org/events/voices/virginia-beach-registration> or call 757-622-1964.

**Thursday, January 22nd**- *Glenn Butler, ISA Certified Master Arborist of Streamline Tree Care* will speak to us on Native Trees and how important they are to the survival of wildlife.

**Friday - Sunday, January 31st – February 2nd, 2015**-*Flower & Garden Expo 2015*: ***Curb Appeal: It’s what’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! Please email Beth at bethrichardson@cox.net your request or signup at the next meeting. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteer shifts are as follows:

Thursday, January 29th Set-up booth 1PM-4PM

Friday, January 30th Booth host 10AM-1PM

 Booth host 1PM-4PM

 Booth host 4PM-7PM

Saturday, January 31st Booth host 10AM-1PM

 Booth host 1PM-4PM

 Booth host 4PM-7PM

Sunday, February 1st Booth host 10AM-1PM

 Booth host 1PM-4PM

 Tear-down booth 4PM-6PM

**Thursday, February 5th-8th**- Wildlife Festival: Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Department. Vender booths, classes & field trips. Visit: <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/special-events/Pages/winter-wildlife-festival.aspx#excursions>

**Thursday, February 26th** – *Carol Heiser, Habitat Educational Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Games & Inland Fisheries* will speak to us on current projects being developed using native plants. Our meeting begins at 7 PM.

**President’s Message**:  Helen Kuhns from *Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation* gave us a slideshow presentation on Hoffler Creek Park and updated us on their current projects. We thoroughly enjoyed the history and discovered many wonders found in that park. Visit to see for yourself! [www.hofflercreek.org](http://www.hofflercreek.org)

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 community booths in the Flower & Garden Expo 2015. Please visit our website at <http://www.vnps.org> for additional details and further references for your interests.

I will attend the VNPS Board meeting this Saturday, December 6th in Glen Allen, VA. I will pass on info in our next newsletter. Happy holidays to our members and their families. See you in the New Year with plenty to come for members and their guests like education, fundraisers, field trips and fun!

The **Flower & Garden Expo 2015** will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The theme will be *Curb Appeal: It’s All About the Front.* The expo will show what we can do to our homes and landscapes to make them more dynamic. Gets that WOW factor going when people pass by and make them slow down to say WOW! Too many backyard grills in the past shows with more contests and prizes. Just remember if you volunteer for a shift, you get into the show free! Pick up something special for your Valentine at the show. Before you know it, spring will be around the corner!

Preparations for our plant sales will need volunteers also. Please see Pat if you are interested. We will have less plants and will sell only the most popular native plants so to cut down on labor and plant space needed to care for the plants so protected from extreme weather.

Wild about native plants! Beth

Upcoming dates to remember:

**Saturday, April 4, 2015** will be the *Native Plant Sale* at the Frances Land House during the Gathering of the Guilds Celebration.

**Saturday, May 9-10, 2015** will be the *Native Plant Sale* at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Save the date!