

Thursday, February 26th – Canceled due to 4-8-inches of snow!

Thursday, March 26th - Carol Heiser, Habitat Educational Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Games & Inland Fisheries will speak to us on current projects being developed promoting native plants. Our meeting begins at 7 PM. We will be in the Magnolia Room with refreshments by Amy Jones, our Hospitality Chairperson.

We need volunteers for the plant sale day for setup, sale and tear down please. You may email Pat Quinn at Patricia Quinn at paquinn726@gmail.com if you are interested. We will have fewer plants than last year and will sell only the most popular native plants so to cut down on labor and plant space needed to care for the plants from extreme weather. Thanks!

Saturday, April 4, 2015 will be the *Native Plant Sale* at the Frances Land House during the Gathering of the Guilds Celebration. Plant sale hours: 10 AM-3PM. This is Easter weekend folks so let's kick off the warmer season with no more snow! Let's enjoy the colors of spring!!!

Friday & Saturday, May 8-9, 2015 will be the *Native Plant Sale* at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Plant sale hours: 10 AM-3PM. Happy Mother's Day weekend! Show your mother how special she is with a native plant. You will always be thought of warmly when she sees that plant you chose for her because she is a special lady.

President's Message: Was anyone able to go the Winter Tree ID Education Walk at *Paradise Creek Nature Park* with Chesapeake Master Gardener Ed Bradley? He was leading a group on a journey through the woods to learn about the native trees in our area. Ed was also going to share some valuable skills to identify trees throughout the winter when leaves are absent. 757-399-7487 or ssumoski@elizabethriver.org

Field Trip: New Year's Day winter canoe/kayak trip was held on January 1, 2015 for fellow Paddlers hosted by Byron and Jean. The trip started at the Route 671 bridge (Hercules) on the Nottoway River and the take out was at Round Gut, on Route 687.

Thanks to Glenn Butler, ISA Certified Master Arborist of Streamline Tree Care, who was a dynamic speaker last month on Native Trees and how important they are in the landscape and to the survival of wildlife. We had a lively dialogue between our audience and speaker on the definition of native plants. We all learned at great deal. We need to speak about this in further meetings. Great speaker idea!

The Flower & Garden Expo 2015: *Curb Appeal: It's What's out Front that Counts* show was a busy but rewarding show. Amy Jones did an outstanding job preparing for the show and all

weekend manning the booth. Moreover, she drew another beautiful poster of the native plant of the year, which is Sweet Pepper bush that educates you on all the wonderful aspects of this native plant. The society's double booth was filled with less plants, more colored-photos and handouts. Beth cut out butterflies of all types of butterflies and pollinators and placed them everywhere in the booth. Those people who took an interest in the removal of invasive plants received free the [Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](#) book. Due to the tax laws, we cannot sell goods but three times a year as a nonprofit. The Flower & Garden Expo 2015 was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The theme was Curb Appeal: It's all about the Front. The expo showed what we could do to our homes and landscapes to make them more dynamic. Try to get that WOW factor going when people pass by and make them slow down to say, oh! I love that! A very BIG thank you to all of those members who assisted as volunteers in the booth this year: Amy Jones, Eric Gunderson, Rogard Ross, Darcy Stephan, Steve and Kathleen Stasulis were so kind to make time for the cause. People who visited the booth were interested in learning about the use of native plants and so are we interested in learning about diversity in our wildlife habitats. Your help was greatly appreciated. Thanks!

Wildlife Festival: Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Department February 5th-8th was another hit. The keynote speaker who kicked off this year's program was Kevin Karlson, wildlife photographer. It was fabulous and such breath-taking photography and filming. I was blown away by his style and his funny little stories between the slides. He showcased his work which was an art form in itself. Check him out on through this website:

<http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/special-events/Pages/winter-wildlife-festival.aspx#excursions>

We just learned that member Donna Roncarti of Suffolk died on Monday, February 23. We will be sending a sympathy card to the family on behalf of our Chapter. You may visit her obituary at <http://www.rwbakerfh.com/obituary/Donna-Mary-Roncarti/Suffolk-VA/1484058> There is a video near the bottom of the obituary page that has photos of Donna. Visitation with the family will be at the funeral home on Sunday and the funeral service is scheduled for Monday. Details are in the obituary for anyone wanting to attend.

Wild about native plants! Beth