

## **COASTAL PLAIN TALK – The Newsletter for the South Hampton Roads Chapter**

March 14, 2018

Greetings Members!

March Meeting:

**JESSICA RUTHENBERG**

**WATCHABLE WILDLIFE**

**Thursday, March 22, 2018**

**Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library**

Join us at our March 22th meeting to meet Jessica Ruthenberg, Chesapeake-based watchable wildlife biologist for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Jessica serves the entire coastal plan of Virginia and also acts as statewide coordinator of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. We have moved to the Pretlow Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave., Norfolk, VA 23503 due to LanternAsia at NBG. The social begins at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

Our meetings are free and open to the public. Please come and bring a friend. Light refreshments will be served.

### **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

You would not think it early spring with the snow we had mid-March. I have had azaleas (non-native) blooming for a couple weeks; trilliums came up over the second weekend in March and columbine ready to open the buds. Many of the trees have already bloomed too.

We went to the VNPS Winter Workshop in Richmond over the weekend. The focus was on trees. We so often fail to see the forest or the trees...a backdrop to the showy perennials and shrubberies we covet. John Seiler went over the physics of trees, how they drag water up their trunks by the demands of the leaves. Desiree Narango discussed how Chickadees show other birds where to find their homes and food. Ryan Klopf described the old growth forests in South Western Virginia. Lytton Musselman from Old Dominion University gave a wonderful speech about Virginia Long Leaf Pine (he is hilarious).

Our March 22 meeting will be at Pretlow Library in Norfolk...a change of venue due to Norfolk Botanical Garden's "LanternAsia" exhibit. April will be at Pretlow also, but on April 24, a Tuesday. Jessica Ruthenberg, Watchable Wildlife Biologist for the Virginia Department o Game and Inland Fisheries, will speak in March. Anne McDaniel, from Wild Birds, Unlimited, will speak on April 24.

We have a lot of upcoming events. Saturday, April 7 we have our annual Plant Sale from 9 to 4 at Francis Land House, Virginia Beach Blvd at Kings Grant Road. We need a lot of bodies to make this a success! Please sign up or volunteer. You can call me at 757-486-5485 and I will put you on the list. Pat Quinn is our chairperson; Kit Hayden is always involved and Vicki Shufer, Byron Carmean, and Eric Gunderson should be with us as well. I plan to cashier for the bazillionth straight year. Our second event will coincide with Norfolk Botanical Garden's sale on May 4 and 5. This is due to the LanternAsia exhibit as well. We will need some people to participate in that event as well.

Enjoy your spring, and, I do hope we can see some of you on either March 22 or April 24!

Steve Stasulis

### **THE CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION FOR 2018 HAS BEEN POSTPONDED.**

Nothing new to report here. I'm sure the Garden is busy with the opening of LanternAsia. So, as a reminder, Norfolk Botanical Garden has been renovating the old administration building. The facility will reopen soon and all of the plant societies will begin meeting there. We now anticipate that our May 24rd meeting will move to the newly renovated Auditorium with a beautiful room and vastly improved parking. More details to come.

### **CHANGE OF LOCATION AND DATE CONTINUES FOR THE APRIL MEETING**

Due to the special event LanternAsia, Norfolk Botanical Garden has decided that they cannot accomodate our evening meetings in March and April. This also happened two years ago when LanternAsia was here. We moved to the Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave., Norfolk, VA 23503. We will be there again for our April meeting, but it will be on Tuesday, April 24 instead of the usual Thursday. So please make a note on your calendar!

### **VNPS SPRING PLANT SALES**

**Saturday, April 7th and Friday, May 4 - Saturday, May 5**

Join us on Saturday, April 7th for the VNPS Plant Sale. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. Sign up at the next meeting or contact Pat Quinn for information at 757-321-8137 or paquinn726@gmail.com. This is held at the Francis Land House in Virginia Beach in conjunction with the Gathering of with Guilds.

We will also be participating at the May Plant Sale at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Please note that NBG has changed the date for the sale, and it is no longer on Mothers' Day Weekend. We will be there for two days only - Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5. Volunteers will be needed. Sign up at the next meeting or contact Steve Stasulis for information at 757-486-5485 or stasuliss@hotmail.com.

### **FACEBOOK & WEBSITE**

Barb Ryan, our Webmaster, needs your pictures. She will be updating our webpage on the VNPS website. If you have pictures or information you would like to see online, please send it to Barb at barbararyan@cox.net.

The Virginia Native Plant Society South Hampton Roads Facebook page is now live! The page can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/vnpsshr/>

We encourage you to "like" the page (click on the Like button) and invite your friends to Like us, too – just click on the link "Invite your friends to like this page".

We are hoping that this will be an active, informative, and fun site – please feel free to post your questions, answers, and personal experiences related to native plants. Photos and videos are welcome! You can email Barb with any Facebook questions barbararyan@cox.net.

### **NATIVE PLANTS FOR SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA – Including Hampton Roads Region**

This great book has been reprinted and is available now. We will be selling this at our plant sales for \$5.00. Members can pick up their free copy at any membership meeting. Non-members can join at a meeting, and get a free copy. This regional native plant guide is filled with beautiful pictures and information about our local native plants.

## **CALENDAR**

### **\*\*Volunteer Opportunities Contact-Beth Richardson 757-574-5448**

Thu, Mar 22 6:30-8:30 Membership meeting at the Pretlow Anchor Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk. Speaker: Jessica B. Ruthenberg • Watchable Wildlife Biologist

Sat, Apr 7 9am-3pm Native Plant Sale at the Francis Land House. See details above.

Sat, Apr 21 Spring Canoe Trip with Byron & Jean Carmean. More details in April.

Tue, Apr 24 6:30-8:30 Membership meeting. at the Pretlow Anchor Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk. Speaker: Anne McDaniel, from Wild Birds, Unlimited, Garden to Attract Feeders

Fri-Sat, May 4-5 10 am – 3 pm Native Plant Sale at Norfolk Botanical Garden. See details above.

Thu, May 24 6:30-9 Membership meeting back at NBG. Speaker: TBA

Sat, Sept 15 11am-4pm RiverFest 2018 hosted by the Elizabeth River Project. Details to come.

### **\* \* \* WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN \* \* \***

Are you interested in getting involved with planning the VNPS events and meetings?

Do you have some ideas you would like to share? We are always looking for new people to join our Board of Directors. We have appointed positions available and are actively looking for someone to help with the newsletter or as a Director-At-Large. Come to the next meeting or contact Steve or Kathleen Stasulis at 757-486-5485 or stasuliss@hotmail.com and let us know what you would like to do.

See you on March 22!

Kathleen Stasulis

757-486-5485

stasuliss@hotmail.com

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Elected Officers**

President - Steve Stasulis 757-486-5485 stasuliss@hotmail.com

Vice President - Beth Richardson 757-574-5448 bethrichardson@cox.net

Secretary - Pat Quinn 757-321-8137 paquinn726@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kathleen Stasulis 757-486-5485 stasuliss@hotmail.com

**Appointed Directors**

Botany - Vickie Shufer 757-421-3929 wildfood@cox.net

Education/Conservation - Yolima Carr 757-456-2052 X202 ycarr@thehermitagemuseum.org

Membership - Sandy Ricks 757-318-1271 sandy.ricks@cox.net

Publicity/Social Media - Barbara Ryan 757-439-8737 barbararyan@cox.net

Newsletter - Open

Hospitality - Amy Jones 757-410-8754 amynally1@aol.com

Plant Sale - Pat Quinn 757-321-8137 paquinn726@gmail.com

Directors-At-Large (2) - Open