



Virginia Native Plant Society

Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places

COASTAL PLAIN TALK

Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter
January 15, 2019

Happy New Year!

*Wishing everyone peace, happiness,
and good health in 2019.*

*May all your troubles last as long as
your New Year's resolutions.*

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

We FINALLY have a cold, dreary weekend to plan out our gardens and sip hot beverages while perusing the latest seed and bulb magazines. My non-native cymbidiums remain outside; I have dunked them a few times to encourage the last remaining roaches to vacate the planting medium before bringing them inside to hopefully bloom. The forest has dropped most of the deciduous leaves, coating the floor with free mulch. Season change... Yolima Carr has left the Hermitage and is now with Elizabeth River Project at Paradise Creek Nature Park in Portsmouth. Paradise Creek is relatively new, 40 acres of Woodlands, Meadows and Wetlands.

We had wonderful presentations in October and November. Karen and Steve McCurdy from The Butterfly Society gave an outstanding butterfly presentation. Their passion for nature's best public relations for insects was both informative and fun. Their photos were clear and to the point. Byron Carmean gave a fabulous talk about trees of Virginia as well as photos of some of the great trees of Virginia. Byron is a wealth of knowledge about trees and plants in general. He also brings a fair amount of plants/trees/shrubs to our April and May native plant sales.

Kathleen and I missed Gathering of the Gardeners in December. I had that nasty cold which is apparently still making the rounds. I understand we had excellent attendance and a second place finish in the trivia contest (we did well with plants, not so hot with holiday trivia).

Our January speaker will be Debra Mosher with a presentation on the Weyanoke Sanctuary. You will have to join us on Thursday, January 24, at 6:30 pm at Norfolk Botanical Garden in the Camellia Room. An added bonus...if you have **seeds to share** please bring them! I have a few interesting ones myself and will be out collecting them the next few weeks.

—Steve Stasulis, President, South Hampton Roads Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

THE VIRGINIA FLOWER & GARDEN EXPO - A Symphony of Flowers

(January 25 – 27, 2019, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, 10 AM – 7 PM)

It's the first flower & garden show of the year and VNPS will be there. Amy Jones and Beth Richardson are setting up our educational booth. *We need your help* to work the booth, answering questions and handing out membership brochures on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, or assist with take down on Sunday late afternoon. Each shift is three hours long and they start at 10 AM, 1 PM and 4 PM. The 4 PM Sunday shift is for break down. For your participation, you get free admission and can walk around and see the expo while you are there. Please contact Amy at 757-392-5913 or amynally1@aol.com to sign up for a shift or ask questions. We will also have a sign-up sheet at the January 24th meeting. Can't work a whole shift? Just let Amy know what you want to do. It's a fun time and you might learn something new, too.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE UPCOMING PLANT SALES. GET A CRASH COURSE IN NATIVE PLANTS

Often the best way to learn something new is just to do it. We have an opportunity to do just that with our native plants sales.

- April 6 we will have our Native Plant Sale at Francis Land House. We do need volunteers... people who can throw out descriptive plant names in Latin are cherished. The rest of us can smile and nod and encourage people to purchase plants that like certain environments; then there are those of us who can be Sherpas, count plants or take money for purchases.
- May 3 (Friday) & 4 (Saturday) we will have our traditional "week before Mother's Day" plant sale at Norfolk Botanical Garden where our leftover plants will compete with the fabulous array of greenhouse grown NBG plants. Again, we will need some assistance. This tends to be a smaller sale and usually Friday is strong and Saturday thins out quite a bit.

Pat Quinn, our Plant Sale Chair, is looking for an assistant. This person should be interested in plants and eager to learn more. Horticultural students are welcome, but formal education in horticulture is not necessary. Activities would include assisting with selecting and ordering plants for the April and May plant sales including possible buying trips to nurseries. Also working at the plant sale events. Interested? Please email Pat Quinn at PAQuinn726@gmail.com.

VPNS SHINES AGAIN AT THE GATHERING OF THE GARDENERS

Monday, December 17, 2018, was the annual Gathering of the Gardeners dinner at NBG. The evening was muted somewhat by a flu-like virus that was passing through the community and had our fearless leader, Steve Stasulis, down for the count, but we soldiered on as a loyal group. Sandy Ricks (our new Membership chair), Amy Jones (Hospitality), Dean and Peggy Troyer (Fundraising, state level) were joined by two Rock and Mineral people, Vinton and Barbara, and a renegade Virginia Camellia Society member, Joe Davis.

Why does it matter who came? Because we had a *title to defend in the trivia contest*. As with last year, we nailed the botany questions, but struggled with a new category this year, I guess you'd call it seasonal questions. Questions such as in which country is the tradition of eating Kentucky Fried Chicken on Christmas Day so popular you have to reserve your order two weeks or more in advance? (We thought China, it was Japan). Who wrote a short story about two old spinsters in Alabama and their fruitcake recipe? (Truman Capote, we had no clue!) Despite

these challenges, we still came in second. Shows how educational the Semipervens newsletter really is!

We also voted on the Best Bonsai display. Interesting that the winner was a tree that was rescued from someone's trashcan a few years ago, and nurtured by one of their club members. We had a sneak preview of some updating to the garden from Michael DesPlaines which should make it more sustainable and more tolerant of sea level rise in the future. And, of course, the grand finale was a drive through the Garden of Lights Christmas display.

Watch for the date in December 2019 and plan to attend for a chance to meet members of other garden-related clubs and have a lovely evening. Plus, we now have **two** titles to defend!

—Peggy Troyer, VNPS Fundraising, state level.

NOT SURE ABOUT THAT NEW PLANT YOU FOUND?

Post a question or picture on our Facebook page. To locate the page in Facebook, enter *vnpsshr* in the search box. Click on the link for *Virginia Native Plant Society South Hampton Roads Chapter*. While you're there, please 'like' our page by clicking on the *Like* button located under the large cover photo on our page. To post on our Facebook page, click on the *Write a Post* button and start typing. If you want to add a photo or video, click on *Photo/Video* directly under *Write a Post*. Post as often as you'd like! (If you're not comfortable posting to Facebook, email your photos, questions, or information about upcoming events related to native plants to Barb Ryan (barbararyan@cox.net)).

HAVE YOU HEARD A GOOD SPEAKER THAT MEMBERS MIGHT ENJOY?

Many of us belong to multiple groups related to plants and nature. In our travels, meetings, and seminars, we hear speakers that are interesting, inspiring, etc. Please pass those names and contact info along to Steve Stasulis (stasuliss@hotmail.com) for consideration for future VNPS meetings.

FALSE CAPE STATE PARK

Alexa Taylor, Park Interpreter, requested the help of VNPS with an upcoming project. The request was forwarded to us from state level. This April, the park will focus on pollinators and ways to help conserve them. They plan a pollinator display set up for the whole month and then on April 20th they plan to hold a Pollinator Garden building program. They would welcome our help with recommendations of native plants to include in the garden to help attract pollinators, as well as any donation of plants or seeds for the garden, or recommendation of where they could acquire plants or seeds since their budget is limited. They need to plan this project soon in order to get plaques and identification signage in time. They will recognize VNPS for any donation or help we might provide to the project. If you are interested in helping, contact Alexa Taylor, Park Interpreter, False Cape State Park <alexa.taylor@dcr.virginia.gov>.

HAVE A FAVORITE NATIVE?

How about sending a short paragraph on your favorite native and add a picture from your garden? This is your newsletter. Ideas, suggestions on content, event information, and contributions are always welcome. You can reach me, M.C. King, at mck5110@charter.net.

NEW MEETING LOCATION IN MARCH - WE HOPE!

Finally! After a long wait and several false starts, our meetings are moving soon to the new **Garden Auditorium** inside the old Administration Building at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Renovations on the building are complete. Two parking lots are adjacent to both of the wings (that can be seen from the main road) and enough parking lot lights! If you are walking in the front doors from the main road the Garden Auditorium is located inside to the left. The main entrance of the Administration building is what we call the Rotunda and the other wing is where our office spaces are located. For any guests that choose to park in our main parking lot across from the Baker Hall Visitor Center, they simply walk over to the building and then walk inside and to the right is where the Garden Auditorium would be located.

Please always check the Calendar of Events in this newsletter for the latest information on meeting location.

As of January 1, 2019, NBG instituted a new "green" policy regarding single use plastics. We have a copy of the Green Guidelines and will review it at our meeting.

CALENDAR: MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*For general meetings, a social with light refreshments begins at 6:30 PM. The meeting with speaker will start at 7:00 PM. Our meetings are free and open to the public. Please come and bring a friend. Unless otherwise noted, all general meetings are held in the **Garden Auditorium in the recently renovated Administration Building at Norfolk Botanical Garden.***

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| January 24, 2019: | General meeting | Speaker: Debra Mosher on the Weyanoke Sanctuary. <i>Seed swap. <u>Note:</u> Camellia Room in Baker Hall, NBG.</i> |
| Jan 25-27, 2019: | Virginia Flower & Garden Expo | Virginia Beach Convention Center
Volunteers needed |
| February 28, 2019: | General meeting | Speaker: Nancy Vehrs, President of Virginia Native Plant Society will talk about land VNPS has purchased and other projects of the state society. <u>Note:</u> <i>Holly Room in Baker Hall, NBG</i> |
| March 28, 2019: | General meeting | (Including final planning for the April 6 plant sale.)
Garden Auditorium. |
| April 6, 2019: | Plant Sale | Francis Land House <i>Volunteers needed.</i> |
| April 25, 2019: | General meeting | <u>Note:</u> Back to the <i>Holly Room</i> in the main building, NBG. |
| May 3 & 4, 2019: | NBG Plant Sale | This is the weekend before Mother's day. <i>Volunteers needed.</i> |
| May 23, 2019: | General meeting | Garden Auditorium. |

(For new volunteer opportunities, contact Steve or Kathleen Stasulis, 757-486-5485.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Elected Officers:**

President	Steve Stasulis, 757-486-5485, stasuliss@hotmail.com
Vice President	Beth Richardson (On Sabbatical for this year)
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, yolimaamor@gmail.com
Membership	Sandy Ricks, 757-318-1271, sandy.ricks@cox.net
Publicity/Social Media	Barbara Ryan, 757-439-8737, barbararyan@cox.net
Newsletter	M.C. King, 757-483-1374, mck5110@charter.net
Hospitality	Amy Jones, 757-410-8754, amynally1@aol.com
Plant Sale	Pat Quinn, 757-321-8137, paquinn726@gmail.com
Directors-At-Large	Two positions open