

Saturday, September 12th: **Riverfest** at Nauticus in Norfolk will have booths with vendors for sales and for education from 10 AM to 5 PM. Learn about the transformation of the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River over time, as well as the modern day health scores for the branch. Find your role in restoration of the Eastern Branch. Spy a Crab and other river inhabitants in the Living River Science Dome aquariums. See what's living in a drop of river water under a microscope! And see how polluted runoff can affect the river where these creatures live with our Enviroscape. Taste an oyster and recycle the shell for oyster reef restoration on the Elizabeth River. Plan your very own oysterberg reef off your shoreline. Learn to garden oysters off your dock and try your hand at the shell jig. WIN a pearl necklace! We will have a booth promoting the use of native plants. Visit for more info at <http://www.elizabethriverfest.org>

Saturday, September 19th: Virginia Beach Master Gardeners **Fall into Landscaping Festival** at the AREC off Diamond Springs Road in Virginia Beach from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Plants, food and crafts for sale as well as classes and tours during the morning and early afternoon. We will have a booth under the big white tent. Check out the details at <http://www.vbmg.org/Fall%20Garden%20Festival%202015.pdf>

Saturday, September 19th: Lynnhaven River NOW **Fall Festival** at the Brock Environmental Center. Fun for the whole family, hands-on nature activities, fun and educational booths, native plant sale, eco-friendly craft vendors, delicious locally-sourced food, rain barrel bonanza, music & pirates! We will be partnering with the Sustainable Living Expo for an even larger and more diverse festival. There will be interesting information, exhibitors and vendors for everyone. Learn about the new solar coop, the sustainable kitchen, rain barrels, nature friendly landscaping and more. Try out a paddle board in Pleasure House Creek or take a guided walk at Pleasure House Point. For more information please visit the web page at <http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/fall-festival-2/>

Thursday, September 24th: South Hampton Roads Chapter Meeting: **Bill Haynie** from the **Virginia Beach Wildlife Response Team** located off Indian River Road will be our speaker. Wildlife Response, Inc. is a volunteer organization devoted solely to the care of orphaned, injured, and displaced native wildlife. They are also dedicated to the education of the public when it comes to Wildlife Rehabilitation. Did you know that the habitats of wild neighbors such as deer, box turtles, songbirds, and hawks are being destroyed at a phenomenal rate by the construction of new houses, roads and shopping centers? As if this didn't cause enough harm, these helpless creatures are also orphaned, injured, and sometimes even killed by our

domestic pets, our automobiles, and even uninformed citizens. We as individuals cannot stop this progression, but with your help, Wildlife Response, Inc. (WRI) can help heal the wounds that progress may inflict. Visit their web page at <http://wildliferesponse.org/>

President's Message:

Our last spring meeting in May had our very own Meg French and Nancy Dickerson, VNPS members, speaking on *Companion Plantings* which they installed at First Landing Park; their talk was fascinating. Companion planting is when one uses certain vegetables and flowers to support or inhibit the growth of other plants and/or which pests they deter. For example, Plant sunflowers near cucumbers, but keep sunflowers away from the potatoes. It was a most interesting talk from which we learned a great deal. Please visit the park to find out what other activities are going on using native plants.

Check it out at www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/first-landing.shtml

Our spring field trip was a Tree Walk and Picnic at Northwest River Park. A group who love native plants walked in the park to see some of the native trees and shrubs found on site. They brought a lunch and enjoyed the fresh air as well as the sights and sounds of nature.

Hope everyone had a most pleasant summer as the butterflies and moths enjoy the last of the native plants for their journey south. We have speakers and events lined up for the upcoming fall and winter program for members and guests alike. Please check out the agenda so these events can be placed on your calendar.

Wild about Native Plants, Beth