



Virginia Native Plant Society
Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places

COASTAL PLAIN TALK

Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter
October 17, 2018

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a fabulous tour of the Hermitage gardens and The Stickwork art with Yolima Carr. We learned about the historical home and the family who made it possible. Yolima showed us different areas of the grounds, including native and non-native plants. She works hard to match the correct environment with her choices in plants. While much of it is native, she also uses Mediterranean plants in sun baked, dry areas. Much of the grounds has changed from the original gardens, yet Yolima finds ways to work some of the original style back in. They used features from the original gardens and fashioned new from photos and drawings that closely resemble the former items. There are millstones from near and far...some which came around by sea from California. Many are from east coast mills. Yolima facilitated the removal of non-native phragmites, which had usurped native grasses in and near the water. The phragmites was replaced by native grasses, which do a much better job at providing habitat and oxygen for the water, while protecting the land from seaborne erosion by tempering wave action. Hermitage has also been very active in adding oysters (filter feeders) to the river. After the garden tour, we were invited inside to tour the museum. *Many thanks to Yolima Carr for a great event!*

Jessica Ruthenberg gave a wonderful "backyard habitat" presentation at our September 27 meeting at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Pollinators are important...yet we also need places for our wildlife to live (habitat), water for them to drink, the correct plants to lay eggs and feed upon. Our backyards and front yards are valuable locations, if we are willing to reduce the green desert (turf grass) and have trees, shrubs and perennials.

Steve McCurdy is slated to be our speaker for the October 25 meeting at the Holly Room in Norfolk Botanical Garden. Steve is president of the local Butterfly Society and I have it on good authority that he packs a dynamite presentation. Be there at 6:30 for refreshments and socialization...the garden gates close at 7pm so don't be late!

Our November meeting is an oddball date. It will be on Wednesday, November 7 to accommodate Norfolk Botanical Garden's "million bulb walk" which starts Thursday November 8 (we aren't charging them for this free advertisement). Byron Carmean, a VNPS member and "big trees" expert will present for us.

(cont. on p.2)

The Gathering of the Gardeners potluck dinner will be on Monday, December 17 at 6pm sharp. If you get there late the Rose Hall will be full and it will be hard to break into line. This is always a lot of fun and *usually* they let us go to the front of the line to drive through the million bulb presentation without charge. Ah, the benefits of membership!

We have a couple directors' chairs open for those of you who might enjoy being a little more involved. Also, Pat Quinn is looking for a couple people to help out with the plant sale. If you want to learn a bunch about plants, retail and carting around lots of plants, please contact me.

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

Note: Due to the schedule for the Holiday Lights at the Garden, our meeting schedule for October and November is a bit compressed followed by the Gathering of the Gardeners in December. Therefore, this is a *combined newsletter for October through December*. Regular monthly newsletters will return in January. Also, don't miss the two new events in the calendar for October near the end of this newsletter.

MEETING: October 25, 2018, Holly Room, Norfolk Botanical Garden

SPEAKER: Steve and Karen McCurdy, Butterfly Society Of Virginia

Steve and Karen have raised butterflies and moths for over 27 years. They took classes and completed the volunteer requirements to become Certified Virginia Master Naturalists (Tidewater Chapter) in 2016. Karen and Steve completed their Bachelor degrees in English/Education and Architecture, respectively, and retired 3 years ago. They currently serve as Co-Presidents of the Butterfly Society of Virginia. The social begins at 6:30 PM 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.

MEETING: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 (NOTE DATE CHANGE), Holly Room, Norfolk Botanical Garden

SPEAKER: Byron Carmean, All About Trees

Byron is a native of Matthews County but currently lives in Suffolk, near Lake Prince. A graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in Horticulture, he was a teacher for Chesapeake Public schools for 31 years and is now retired. He has been involved in looking for Champion Trees since 1983. The social begins at 6:30 PM 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.

GATHERING OF THE GARDENERS POTLUCK: Monday, December 17, 2018, 6:00PM, Rose Garden Hall, Norfolk Botanical Gardens

You are invited to this year's Gathering of Gardeners when Norfolk Botanical Garden hosts all of the gardening societies that meet, volunteer, and hold events at the garden throughout the year. This annual potluck dinner is scheduled for *Monday, December 17, 2017, at 6:00 PM* in the Rose Garden Hall in Baker Hall. The Garden will provide soft drinks, plates, plasticware, and napkins. You provide the best local food anyone could ask for – main entrees, salads, side dishes, bread, and desserts – it is your choice. A drive-thru of the lights is included after the festivities. Let's make a good showing so we can defend our 2017 title as Champions of the Garden Trivia contest!

SOMETIMES THE BEST WAY TO LEARN IS JUST TO JUMP IN

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

PLEASE 'LIKE' US!

If you haven't checked out our Facebook page, please do. 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*. Please 'like' our page by clicking on the *Like* button located under the large cover photo on our page.

Members are encouraged to post pictures of their native plants/gardens. Ask a question about plants to get input from other members. Share information on native plant related events. 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).

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD SPEAKERS

Suggestions for speakers are always needed. In our travels, meetings, and membership groups, 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.

MEETING LOCATION UPDATE

Meetings for October and November will continue in the Holly Room, Baker Hall, at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Our move to the new Auditorium has been pushed back to January...possibly. More on that as we get it.

NEWSLETTER IDEAS NEEDED

I welcome ideas, suggestions on content, event information, and even a few paragraphs on natives. Please feel free to contact me with ideas or info for this newsletter. Reach me, M.C. King, at mck5110@charter.net or 757-375-9921.

CALENDAR: MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

October 25, 2018: General meeting at NBG. 6:30PM social. Planned speaker is Steve McCurdy with the Butterfly Society of Virginia.

October 28, 2018: The Life and Times of Virginia's Amazing Caterpillars presented by Dr. David Wagner, professor and author. 2:00PM at the Law Enforcement Training Academy Auditorium, 411 Integrity Dr, Virginia Beach.

October 28, 2018: Fall Harvest - down on the farm. Fruit, nuts and seeds: what's edible, how to prepare them, and sampling with Vickie Shufer, Naturalist, Herbalist, and Forager. Blackwater

Borough of Virginia Beach. 1:00-3:00PM. Suggested donation of \$20. To register, email Vickie@ecoimages.us

November 7, 2018 (Wednesday): General meeting at NBG. 6:30PM social. Planned speaker is Byron Carmean discussing trees.

December 17, 2018 (Monday): *Note the date!* **Gathering of the Gardeners Potluck** at NBG, Rose Garden Hall. Potluck. 6 PM.

January 24, 2019: General meeting, social 6:30 PM. Hopefully in the new *Auditorium in Old Administration Building at NBG.*

February 28, 2019: General meeting, social 6:30 PM, Auditorium in Old Adm. Bldg, NBG

March 28, 2019: General meeting, social 6:30 PM, Auditorium in Old Adm. Bldg, NBG.

April 6, 2019: Francis Land House Plant Sale. This is the first Saturday in April. *Volunteers needed*.*

April 25, 2019: General meeting, social 6:30 PM, Auditorium in Old Adm. Bldg, NBG.

May 5 and 6, 2019: NBG Plant Sale. This is the weekend before Mother's day. *Volunteers needed*.*

May 23, 2019: General meeting, social 6:30 PM, Auditorium in Old Adm. Bldg, NBG.

(*For 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, 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	M.C. King, 757-375-9921, 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