

COASTAL PLAIN TALK

Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter

September 17, 2018

MEETING: September 27, 2018

Holly Room, Norfolk Botanical Garden

SPEAKER: Jessica Ruthenberg

Watchable Wildlife

Join us on September 27 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. This presentation was postponed from the March meeting. 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.

RESCHEDULED!

HERMITAGE TOUR ON SEPTEMBER 23RD

New Date: September 30, 2018

Internationally-acclaimed sculptor, Patrick Dougherty, began installation on October 2, 2016, on a brand new site-specific work for the Hermitage Museum and Gardens called *Villa Tempesta*. For three weeks, Dougherty led a group of volunteers to create a large-scale structure made entirely of saplings. In 2017, we were invited to view this exhibit along with The Burning Man exhibit. Now it's time to say goodbye to this amazing stick-work exhibit. Before it is dismantled in November, we are being invited back on September 30 to view the *Villa Tempesta* again and get a personal tour of the

beautiful gardens with Yolima Carr. The Hermitage is located at 7637 North Shore Rd in Norfolk. The gate will open at 10 AM and our tour will begin at 10:30 AM. Please **RSVP** to Kathleen at [757-486-5485](tel:757-486-5485) or stasuliss@hotmail.com. This event is free to members and their guests only.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Autumn! Virginia Native Plant Society does not meet in the summer because we are all busy in our gardens feeding native and non-native insects, rabbits, voles and deer with our treasured plants. The rain watered my plants often enough that I rarely had to drag the hose around to turn on sprinklers. Our forest has limited sun, dappled shade and deep shade so our blooms are rarely as showy as those who have full sun. Green-eyed coneflower has been blooming since early July, a cute tall aster much the same, and black-eyed susans for much of the summer but they are done for the year. Blue mist flower buds are nearly ready to open (some have, but not many), as are the pink obedient plants. Monarda is fading away. Striped Wintergreen seeds replaced the white blooms from earlier in the summer; St Andrews Cross has some yellow blossoms. Crane-fly Orchids bloomed and have gone to seed; I should have a very large patch next year. I have a few native azaleas budding already. The outer bands from Florence knocked down a few branches but nothing spectacular.

As noted above, Jessica Ruthenberg, Watchable Wildlife Biologist, will be our speaker on September 27. She will talk about wildlife habitat related to native plants. We seem to focus on pollinators an awful lot but that is only part of why natives are so important in our environment.

Also note that Yolima Carr will lead a tour at the Hermitage at 10 am, Sunday, September 30 (changed from the week prior). Yolima has done a fantastic job at managing the grounds at the Hermitage for several years.

Steve McCurdy, very active in The Butterfly Society, will be our speaker for October 25th.

Pat Quinn had planned to sell plants and host a booth at AREC September 15, but the Master Gardener event was postponed due to weather.

Kathleen and I attended the June 2nd quarterly state board meeting in Charlottesville. We hosted a South Hampton Roads board meeting in July and several of us did a brief garden tour of Stasulis Forest. We have chosen some potential donations which will be presented at the September meeting.

Do you have plants going to seed which you would like to share at the November meeting? In the past, Kit Hayden and others have been very generous at providing a wonderful variety of seeds. It would be delightful to have several choices for sharing.

—Steve Stasulis

INTERESTED IN POTS?

Norfolk Botanical Gardens has too many and is offering them to the local plant societies. The pots come in three sizes: 6-inch, 1 gallon, and 300 (3/4 gallon). If you are interested, please email Kathleen Stasulis at stasuliss@hotmail.com with your order by Sunday Sept 23rd. You must pick them up at our Sept 27th meeting at NBG. Questions? Email Kathleen or call her at 757-486-5485.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS?

Often the best way to learn is to jump in and do a new job. 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.

CHECK OUT 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*. 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).

Thanks, Barb. And thanks to Vickie Shufer for jumping in to respond to plant ID questions.

GATHERING OF THE GARDENERS

Norfolk Botanical Garden

Monday, December 17, 2018

The holidays will be here before we know it and that means Norfolk Botanical Garden hosts all of the gardening societies that meet, volunteer, and hold events at the garden throughout the year. The date is moved back a bit this year because the Million Bulb Walk has been extended to December 15, with drive-through starting on December 16. The change to December 17, 6 PM, Rose Hall at NBG. Remember, it's a potluck. The night will include a free drive through of the lights after the gathering. Save the date so you don't miss it.

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 for possible consideration for VNPS meetings.

MEETING LOCATION UPDATE

Meetings for September, 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

Kathleen finally gets a reprieve! Newsletter duties are now being done by M.C. King. A Suffolk Master Gardener since 2016, I joined the VNPS in early 2017. I live on Knotts Creek in Northern Suffolk and am working to protect the woodland riparian buffer area on my property. Word has spread to the deer, rabbits, possums, birds, bees, fox, etc that there are tasty morsels to be had. Since I moved into their neighborhood, I share (often reluctantly when they eat something I've nurtured along!) Active in my community, I serve on committees and do the newsletter for the community. Please feel free to contact me with ideas or info for this newsletter. Reach me at (757) 375-9921 or mck5110@charter.net.

—M.C. King

CALENDAR AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

October 6, 2018: Education Booth for Lynnhaven River Now Fall Festival, 11AM - 3PM.

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

November 7, 2018 (Wednesday): General meeting at NBG. Planned speaker is Byron Carmean discussing trees. *NOTE the early date & day of the week! Per NBG there are no Plant Society Meetings during the Million Bulb Walk which starts November 8, 2018.*

December 17, 2018: *Note the date!* **Gathering of the Gardeners** 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.

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.

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

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