



## South Hampton Roads Chapter Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places

### Upcoming Events

#### At A Glance



- April 25: General Meeting.
- May 3-4: Native Plant Sale, Norfolk Botanical Garden.
- May 23: General Meeting.

**Meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend.**

## COASTAL PLAIN TALK

Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter  
April 2019

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### Plant Sale at Francis Land House on April 6

It was a virtual sellout! We had maybe 100 plants that Vickie and Byron took home and 8 plants I took home to nurture for the May plant sale. We started closing down around 1:30 because it was raining, cool and breezy. We grossed \$6700 so I think we are well into positive territory. No plants were left over from Southern Branch or Knotts Creek so Pat will order more for the May sale.

Everyone did a fantastic job at the sale. Special thanks to Amy, Pat, Vicki, and Byron for your hard work both ahead of and during the sale, as well as answering questions about plants for buyers. (Apologies if I overlooked anyone.) You were all amazing.

*We still need volunteers for the May 3 (Friday) & 4 (Saturday) plant sale at Norfolk Botanical Garden.*

Contact Steve Stasulis, 757-486-5485, [stasuliss@hotmail.com](mailto:stasuliss@hotmail.com), or Pat Quinn, 757-321-8137, [paquinn726@gmail.com](mailto:paquinn726@gmail.com).

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## Speakers

We still need speakers. If you know someone who is plant, conservation or nature oriented, especially if they are a compelling speaker, please ask them if they would be interested and pass the names on to Steve Stasulis at [stasuliss@hotmail.com](mailto:stasuliss@hotmail.com)

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## Plant Profile: Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass



Blue-eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium augustifolium*, is a miniature member of the Iris family with grass-like leaves. Despite its name, it is neither a grass nor an iris, and does not have a blue eye. Small light blue, star-shaped flowers with a yellow center bloom a few inches above the leaves in March-June. The flowers benefit bees and butterflies.

This plant grows about a foot tall and is best in full to part sun, moist or wet, poor to average soil, but doesn't tolerate flooding or drought. Like iris, they should be divided every two years. After the flowers fade, clumps of the narrow leaves are an attractive groundcover throughout the summer and into fall. The plants look great in a rock garden or along a border and can naturalize in the lawn. It's been found in nearly every county in Virginia growing in woodlands, fields, upland and floodplain forests.



### Editor's Note:

This is *your* newsletter. I hope you enjoyed reading about Blue-eyed Grass; it's another one of my favorites. If you would like to see more plant profiles or have ideas for content, send me a quick email.

If you have a favorite or unusual native in your garden, please share. Just send me a brief profile along with a picture or two, your name and city, and I'll include it in an issue of the newsletter. Or, just send me the Latin name and common name, a picture if you can, and I'll do the rest.

—M.C. King  
[mck5110@charter.net](mailto:mck5110@charter.net)

## Schedule of Chapter Meetings and Events

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public so bring a friend. Light refreshments are served before the meeting at 6:30 pm. The speaker starts at 7:00 pm followed by the chapter meeting.

Note: always check the Calendar of Events in this newsletter for the latest information on meeting location as it may change until all construction issues on the Old Administration Building are worked out. Even when our meetings move to that building, there may be conflicts requiring a change of location for our meeting.

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### April 25, 2019, Chapter Meeting

Location: Holly Room, Main Building, at NBG

### May 3 & 4, 2019 NBG Plant Sale

Location: Norfolk Botanical Garden

On Friday and Saturday, we will have our traditional “week before Mother’s Day” plant sale where our leftover plants will compete with the fabulous array of greenhouse grown NBG plants.

*Again, we will need some **volunteer** assistance for the NBG Plant Sale.* This tends to be a smaller sale and usually Friday is strong and Saturday thins out quite a bit.

### May 23, 2019 Chapter Meeting

Location: Old Administration Bldg, Garden Rm, at NBG  
Speaker to be determined. This will be the last chapter meeting until September.

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**Facebook: [vnpsshr](#)** (Virginia Native Plant Society South Hampton Roads)

Please visit and ‘Like’ us. Post your questions on natives, photos of your garden or favorite native, etc.

(If you’re not comfortable posting to Facebook, email your photos, questions, or information about events related to native plants to Barb Ryan ([barbararyan@cox.net](mailto:barbararyan@cox.net)).

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Two positions open

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