



South Hampton Roads Chapter Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places

Upcoming Events

At A Glance



- Feb 28: Nancy Vehrs, State President, VNPS.
- VNPS 2019 Workshop.
- March 28: General Meeting; Review final planning for the April 6 plant sale.
- April 6: Native Plant Sale, Francis Land House.
- Ariel 25: General Meeting.
- May 3-4: Native Plant Sale, Norfolk Botanical Garden.
- May 23: General Meeting.

More information on location, time, speakers, etc is on p. 6.

Meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend.

COASTAL PLAIN TALK

Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter
February 2019

President's Message

The weather has been rather schizophrenic the past several weeks. Seventies, then twenties and thirties...I have paper whites, hellebores, daphne (all non-natives) blooming...as well as the last remaining native bloomer, one lonely obedient plant in bloom. Lots of early spring bulbs are poking themselves out but nothing else is showing much. My crane-fly orchids are really popping up, however, with their speckled green leaves and purple underneath. They take advantage of the deciduous trees dropping their leaves to capture the winter sun, less competition for them and cute little flower spike in mid-summer uses the energy captured during winter and spring. (See more about these native orchids on p. 5.)

We had a fabulous presentation in January by Debra Mosher about the history and planning involved at Weyanoke Garden in Norfolk. She had both current and historical photos from the garden. If you haven't been through the garden please put it on your front burner! It has some great ideas for things you can do at home and is bird and pollinator friendly.

Amy Jones and Beth Richardson did an *outstanding* job creating our booth at the Flower and Garden Show at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in January. Educational and inviting, we had several people show interest in joining our group. We now have 88 local members.

Our February 28 presentation will be handled by our VNPS State President, Nancy Vehrs. Nancy lives in Northern Virginia and is very active with Native Plant activities, Birding, as well as non-native invasive removal. If you check out the VNPS state web page she posts a ton of photos from several locations in Northern Virginia.

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Nancy will also likely talk about the VNPS affiliations with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (land purchases), how VNPS interacts with some of the political bodies at the state level.

We have several upcoming events. Please see p.6 for details.

—Steve Stasulis, President

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. We need volunteers...for setup, sales, to answer questions, cashier, count plants, etc.

- April 6 - Native Plant Sale at Francis Land House.
- May 3 (Friday) & 4 (Saturday) - plant sale at Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Contact Steve Stasulis, 757-486-5485, stasuliss@hotmail.com, or Pat Quinn, 757-321-8137, paquinn726@gmail.com.



We need speakers
for April and May!

If you know someone who is plant, conservation or nature oriented, especially if they are compelling speakers, please ask them if they would be interested and pass the names on to Steve Stasulis: stasuliss@hotmail.com

Virginia Native Plant Society 2019 Workshop

Our Changing Forests

Forest Health, Management, and Restoration

March 9, 2019 9:00 a.m.–3:15 p.m.

The VNPS 2019 Workshop is only weeks away. Don't be left out. Go to VNPS.org for details and to register. Brochures have also been mailed to members. This year the event will be held in *Charlottesville at the Piedmont Virginia Community College*.

Speakers and topics include:

- Michelle Spicer: Biodiversity Collapse and the Future of the Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome
- Rebecca Wilson: Telling the Story of Longleaf Pine Restoration in Virginia
- Jean Lorber: North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project: A Large-scale Example of Appalachian Forest Restoration
- Katy Barlow: Partnerships and Projections for *Picea rubens* Restoration and Recovery in Central Appalachia.



If each of America's 91 million gardening households planted one shade tree, those trees would absorb 2.25 million tons of CO₂ annually.



Facebook: [vnpsshr](https://www.facebook.com/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).

Attendance at Chapter Meetings

Meetings are held each month on the fourth Thursday from September through May at Norfolk Botanical Garden. South Hampton Roads Chapter now has 88 local members. Our membership is growing, but attendance at meetings is a tad on the sparse side. What do we need to do to get more members (or even non-members) to join us at meetings?

- Do we need to have different topics and speakers? If you have heard someone speak who is on topic and enthralling, please suggest them! We also need someone to recruit speakers if you're interested in helping.
- Our meeting location, times and dates are usually consistent at Norfolk Botanical Garden on the fourth Thursday September through May. Does this need to change?
- Is there interest in weekend hikes in local areas with native plant interest?
- Amy Jones provides refreshments and we have a get-acquainted time between 6:30 and 7. We do have some delightful and interesting members. Amy is from Massachusetts but has lived in several locations between the coasts. In addition to plants, she is a talented artist who has designed posters for VNPS. She is a wealth of information about a variety of subjects.
- We all have hectic lives, a plethora of obligations and conflicting events. We need to know what would draw you and people you know to meetings despite those conflicts.
- We welcome your ideas; the organization belongs to all of us.
- We focus on conservation, education and bring that all together with a state-wide organization which works to keep nature home for all of us. State President Nancy Vehrs is our speaker (more details on p.6.)

Send your great ideas to me at stasuliss@hotmail.com, call me at 757-486-5485, or see me at the next meeting on February 28.

I look forward to hearing your ideas.

—Steve Stasulis, President

Native

plants

bring

music

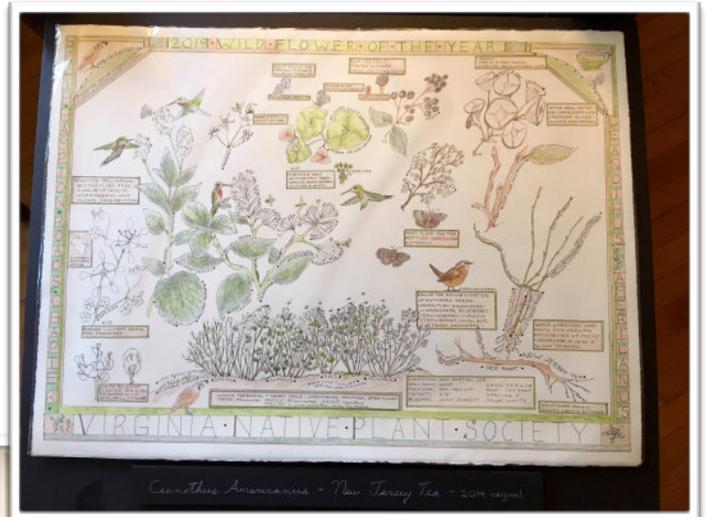
to your

garden.

Virginia Beach Flower and Garden Expo in January

Hopefully **Amy Jones** and **Beth Richardson** have recovered from all of their hard work to set up and tear down the booth and to (wo)man the booth and other activities in between. *Amazing job, ladies!* And *congratulations to Amy* for another job well done on her original artwork for the Plant of the Year poster—*Ceanothus americanus*, the New Jersey Tea. The reprints of past posters in two sizes were a big hit. The idea of notecards was a recurring theme for the future. Thanks to all who volunteered for a shift.

(Sorry for the glare on the picture. It was wrapped in cellophane to protect it from wandering fingers!)



Amy Jones with all 8 of her Plant of the Year posters. The newest, the New Jersey Tea, is on the easel to her right.



Plant Profile: Orchids in Winter?

Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*)

The leaves and flowers of this perennial woodland orchid appear months apart. While the flowers are often overlooked, the leaves of this orchid are very distinctive in winter's brown leaf litter. Sometimes a single leaf is visible but more often several leaves are seen close together as this orchid usually occurs in colonies. The leaf is a dull to shiny green above (sometimes with raised purple spots) and vibrant purple below. It appears as a single oval-shaped leaf that emerges in autumn (September and October), over-winters, and disappears in the late spring to early summer.



When the orchid blooms in mid-July, no leaves are visible. The inconspicuous flower of Crane-fly Orchid is pale green and pale purple to beige, no more than 1/2 inch across, and is easily overlooked, unlike the leaf, which signals the presence of this orchid in winter. The delicate flowers are only noticed when a shaft of slanting fall sunlight highlights what reminds some people of a swarm of small insects—hence “crane-fly.”

The flowering stem is 15 to 20 inches tall, erect, herbaceous, greenish-brown, glabrous, and essentially leafless. The flowering stem originates from a small corm from July to September. The flowers incline slightly to the right or left leading to another common name, “crippled crane-fly”. The flower incline is necessary for pollination by night-flying moths. The pollen-bearing sacs (pollenaria) become attached to the moth's eye and are then carried to another plant for pollination.

The Crane-fly Orchid is found in moist humus-rich soils of deciduous forest along slopes and stream terraces, and in areas with acid soils, such as oak-pine forests. It is the only species of the genus *Tipularia* found in North America. Growing in most counties in Virginia, it is also found scattered throughout much of the Southeastern United States. -Excerpt from the USDA Forest Service

This is your newsletter. I hope you enjoyed reading about the Crane-fly Orchid. If you would like to see more plant profiles, send me a quick email (mck5110@charter.net). If you have a favorite or unusual native in your garden, you're welcome to write a brief profile and send it along with a picture or two, your name and city.
—M.C. King, editor

(Thank you to Eric Gunderson for pointing out these orchids in my garden. I had no idea the leaves and flower stalks went together! My little colony is growing.)

Calendar 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.

February 28, 2019 Chapter Meeting

Location: Holly Room, Baker Hall, Norfolk Botanical Garden

Come to the February meeting and talk with Nancy Vehrs, President of the Virginia Native Plant Society. She will tell us what is going on at the state level, including the VNPS affiliations with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), recent land purchases, and how VNPS interacts with some of the political bodies at the state level.

March 28, 2019 Chapter Meeting

Location: Old Administration Building at NBG

We will meet to go over final planning for the April 6 plant sale.

April 6, 2019 Annual Plant Sale

Location: **Francis Land House**

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 are not comfortable on the sale floor who can be Sherpas, count plants or take money.

April 25, 2019, Chapter Meeting

Location: Holly Room, Main Building at NBG.

Speaker to be determined.

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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 at NBG

Speaker to be determined. This will be the last chapter meeting until September.

Board of Directors

Elected Officers:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Appointed Directors:

Botany

Education/Conservation

Membership

Publicity/Social Media

Newsletter

Hospitality

Plant Sale

Directors-At-Large

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Two positions open

Clip and save for reference.