



South Hampton Roads Chapter Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places

Upcoming Events

At A Glance



March 26: Plant Sale Planning Meeting. Everyone welcome. Garden Auditorium in the Old Admin Bldg, NBG.

April 23: General meeting with speaker Stuart McCausland, a retired Entomologist who has a passion for taking photos of bugs on native plants. Garden Auditorium, Old Admin Bldg, NBG.

COASTAL PLAIN TALK

Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter
March 2020

President's Column

The trees are finally mostly bare of leaves. I have noticed a fair amount of mistletoe, which is a parasite and not harmful to the trees on which it grows. Birds are singing a great deal; we have ospreys and bald eagles fishing in Hebden Cove off the Lynnhaven River.

We got the first 250 plugs for the plant sale potted up this past week; Sandy Ricks and Pat Quinn helped supply additional pots and we got others from McDonalds Nursery recycling bin. Kit Hayden, a previous member (and past president) now a new member, helped pot up some of the plants for the sale. Kit has graciously offered to allow us to dig plants in her yard (she calls it thinning the herd) on Monday, March 23, for the plant sale. If you're interested in participating, she might allow us to take a few for our own use as well. Kit and Bill Hayden live on Great Neck in Virginia Beach and her yard is absolutely fantastic! If you are interested please contact me at 757-486-5485 or send me an email to stasuliss@hotmail.com and I will give you particulars. Our March 26 meeting will be focused on how we handle the plant sale...the sale itself will be on April 4, 9 am to 3 pm, at Francis Land House in Virginia Beach. We will start setting up at 7am. We need some more bodies for set up and during the sale to help buyers, tally purchases, etc. Please contact me to sign up. If you have all day or a few hours, we'll take it. 757-486-5485, stasuliss@hotmail.com

I got a question from a former member on why we put so much effort on raising money for VNPS through the plant sale. Excellent question. We collectively donate a pretty good amount of the profits to conservation and educational organizations. We donated heavily to help publish "Flora of Virginia" as well as the phone app. We helped state VNPS to raise funds to help Virginia DCR secure properties which have rare plant species. We donated \$1000 to Paradise Creek Nature Park to plant several

native trees to shade their children's playground. We donate regularly to Lynnhaven River Now, Elizabeth River Project, Chesapeake Bay Foundation. We tend to sell our plants at a price level far below what you would see at Lowes, Home Depot, McDonalds or any other retail nursery, which encourages people to put natives in the ground instead of fancy Asian, African or European plants. Our plants feed the bugs, which feed the birds, small mammals, lizards and snakes. Our plants are the basic food source for nature's animals.

I hope to see you at our March 26 plant sale planning meeting; there might be a few surprises, too! Also, let's show up to see Stuart McCausland in April, he might even videotape the presentation! I will be potting up 96 more plants this first week after the clock clicked forward, all Geranium Maculatum or Wild Geranium - the 2020 wildflower of the year for VNPS.

—Steve Stasulis, SHR VNPS President

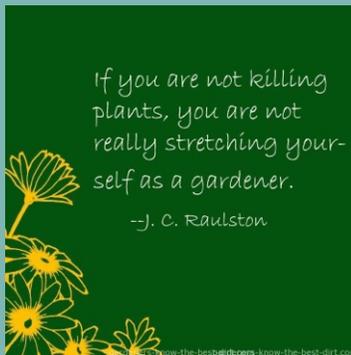
More on the Plant Sale

We already have 350 plants in hand, all perennials, including Bearded Tongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), Wild Columbine (*aquilegia canadensis*), Cardinal flower (*lobelia cardinalis*), Short tooth Mountain Mint (*pycnanthemum muticum*), Robin's Plantain - Lynnhaven Carpet (*erigeron pulchellus*) and Wild Geranium (*geranium maculatum*). We expect to have over 2000 plants, likely many more. We often do not know which plants will be available until a couple days prior to the sale (depends on how they look at the supplier, we tend to only take plants that at least have broken soil). Further, two of our in-house vendors tend to bring several hundred plants and the list doesn't come to us until the week of the event. Vickie Shufer (plant and wildlife columnist in Va Pilot) and Byron Carmean (Retired VT professor and co-author of "big trees in VA") are our two in-house vendors, they grow a good number of Virginia Natives.

As far as prices go, we might have some smaller plants for as little as \$3; most moderate size plants \$5-\$12; shrubs and trees from \$4 to \$25 or more. Sometimes we price based on how they look, also.

We don't post a list but the spring sale this year will be concentrated on spring and summer blooming plants and shrubs/trees; the fall sale in October will be late season bloomers like asters, goldenrod, obedient plants, blue mist flower.

We start selling **at 9am** on April 4 at Francis Land House in Virginia Beach (Virginia Beach Blvd at Kings Grant Road, March 2020



Southwest corner). We "suggest" getting there early, last year we were 90% sold out by 11am and completely sold out by 2pm. We do expect to have Wild Geranium (2020 wildflower of the year for Virginia Native Plant Society).

—Steve Stasulis

Paradise Creek Nature Park

If you haven't visited yet, celebrate Arbor-Earth Day at the park on April 25 from 11-2. More tree planting, games, art, and park tours are planned. Fun for the whole family.

Plant it, and they will come... Oh, deer!

How can such a beautiful creature be so destructive? Appetites on hooves, they can shred your beloved plants as they tear their way through them.



What's left of my camellia, '*Lady Vansittart*' *Multicolor*. They only left three blooms because they couldn't reach the top! -M.C. King



Come join us for a meeting. There's plenty of room in the new meeting space...



Schedule of Chapter Meetings and Events

Chapter meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month, September through May, except as might be noted below. 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 a brief chapter meeting. Any changes will be noted in the schedule.

All meetings will be held in the refurbished Old Administration Building, Garden Auditorium, at Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG). Note that occasional scheduling conflicts at the Garden may necessitate a room change. The alternate room will be listed in the schedule and in the sidebar on the first page of this newsletter. *Please check the schedule each month to verify the location of our meeting. Also, verify the room at the NBG gate.*

2020 Meeting and Event Schedule

- March 26: Plant Sale Planning Meeting
- April 23: General meeting. Speaker: Stuart McCausland, a retired Entomologist with a passion for taking photos of bugs on native plants.
- May 28: General meeting. Kaitlyn Silver (from So Br Nursery) on butterflies

Plant Sales:

- April 4: *Plant Sale* at Francis Land House
- Oct 3: *Plant Sale* at AREC in Virginia Beach

Speakers

We need your help with 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 in speaking at a meeting and pass the info on to Steve Stasulis at stasuliss@hotmail.com

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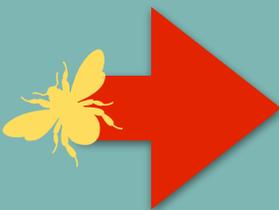
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Vacant - One position



Chapter Board of Directors

We still need a *Vice President* and a *Social Media* person.

Please consider volunteering and submit your name to Steve Stasulis at stasuliss@hotmail.com.

Newsletter

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter. I welcome any feedback and suggestions. If there's a topic you'd like to see covered, please let me know.

I do my best to proofread the final product, but sometimes we humans see what should be there rather than what is there. Any errors are mine. Please let me know if a correction should be included in the next issue.

Thanks, M.C. King

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