



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

### Upcoming Events

#### At A Glance

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#### **September 24:**

General meeting.

Speaker: Kaitlyn Silver from Southern Branch Nursery on butterflies. Everyone is welcome. Garden Auditorium in the Admin Bldg, NBG at 6:30pm.

#### **October 22:**

General meeting with speaker Stuart McCausland, a retired Entomologist who has a passion for taking photos of bugs on native plants. Garden Auditorium, Admin Bldg, NBG at 6:30pm.

#### **November 19: (Third Thursday due to Thanksgiving.)**

General meeting and SEED SWAP. Speaker to be announced.

**December:** No meeting. Also, NBG has cancelled the Gathering of the Gardeners this year due to the pandemic.

## COASTAL PLAIN TALK

Newsletter of the South Hampton Roads Chapter  
September 2020

### President's Column

Hello, fellow Native Plant People,

What a summer! To quote Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." We had rain...too much in some places, not enough in others. We had heat 🥵. We stayed at home. We started wearing masks when we leave the house. We spent too much time trying to track down essentials like toilet paper, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. But, there was a bright spot. We suddenly had a lot more time to work in our gardens!

When our annual plant sale had to be cancelled, we needed to get creative to sell the plants we had acquired for the plant sale. Several small informal sales got plants out into the public hands and more that will go to others soon. We don't have a final accounting of the plant sale yet, but we at least broke even on it and sold plants to people who had great interest.

We have a new Social Media Director, Toni Viudez, who joined us over the summer and is doing an incredible job covering our Facebook page. He added Instagram and put a Gmail address to handle inquiries. If you haven't seen the Facebook page, please take a look (Virginia Native Plant Society South Hampton Roads Chapter). Our page now has butterflies, perennials that support bees and beneficial insects, and a whole bunch of new interest! Welcome to our group, Toni!

Our speaker for Thursday, September 24 will be Kaitlyn Silver. Kaitlyn works with Amy Jones at Southern Branch Nursery in Chesapeake. She has a butterfly presentation that should be interesting as we had a lot of butterflies this summer! I had five monarch caterpillars on a milkweed out front; they ate it down to nothing and I found one of the five on the ground and put it on a swamp milkweed...it spent two days on the swamp milkweed and

## My Summer Vacation

—M.C. King

On July 19, a quiet Sunday afternoon at 3:30, I had a visitor come from the marsh and through the trees to my bird feeders.



Cute, huh? Note the pole snapped in half! The picture below is **not** a person in a bear suit! This was just before he pulled that pole and feeders down...



He then proceeded to hang around for over an hour to taste every kind of food and destroy feeders he couldn't get open. Even took a brief nap! \$200 in damages later, he wandered back into the trees and continued on his journey. In 20 years of feeding birds, this was a first. I got some great pictures though...from inside my house! I'm just very grateful I wasn't working in my garden at the time.

got nice and fat! I did not see any of them make chrysalis and fly off; but, that's nature. Several more caterpillars found the swamp milkweed in pots on our back deck more to their liking.

As you collect seeds soon, note that we plan to have our seed exchange at our November meeting so gather a few extras to share. We are working to secure a speaker for that meeting.

Despite Covid19, quarantines, social distancing and masks, we have had a lot of interest in Virginia Native Plants. Many new members, lots of energy. The State VNPS meeting will be by Zoom later this month and at least one of the speakers will be a primary participant in the publishing of the Flora of Virginia. The original plan was a meeting in Abingdon, VA on the southwest side...we will put that off to next year and hope to participate in person at that time.

Stay well and consider joining us in person for our meetings. See the next article for precautions being taken to keep everyone safe.

—Steve Stasulis, SHR VNPS President

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## Staying Safe at VNPS Meetings

With the Covid-19 pandemic still here, it is necessary to change some of our meeting procedures so that we are following both rules from NBG and suggestions from the CDC. We will still be meeting at the Norfolk Botanical Garden on the fourth Thursday of most months. The Garden Auditorium in the Old Administration Building is limited to an attendance of 40 people. This should not be a problem for us since our attendance is seldom more than 20. The tables will be spaced out with only two chairs at each one. If your party is more than two, you can move the chairs.

*NBG requires masks to be worn inside the buildings. So please bring a mask and wear it during the meeting.*

We have suspended refreshments until 2021 when, hopefully, the pandemic will be over and the restrictions will be gone. Basically, the NBG green policy does not allow individual disposable bottles or food packaging. The CDC recommends not sharing food or beverages from communal plates or bottles. In other words they are conflicting. You are welcome to bring your own non-disposable beverage container.

— Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer

## Congratulations to Amy Jones!

Our very own Amy Roebuck Jones and her art were featured in a July 25<sup>th</sup> article in the *Virginian-Pilot*, Alissa Bunner's "In Full Bloom" column.

Amy's beautifully-detailed botanical art helps to educate the community about Virginia's natural history. Her collection of "Wildflower of the Year" posters were on display in July at the Chesapeake Central Library, and in August through the end of September at Norfolk Botanical Garden. If you haven't seen her posters yet, it's worth the trip. Each poster features a different native plant and woven into the leaves, branches and roots of each plant is information about its habitat, growth and physiology. Amy also includes illustrations of native species of insects and birds that depend on the plant for food or shelter.

Before she became a landscape manager at Southern Branch Nursery, she directed a children's art program. Through her botanical illustrations, Amy gets to combine her masters degree in landscape architecture, her artistic talent, her love of nature and her desire to educate. We in Hampton Roads are proud to be the recipients of her talent.

—M.C. King (excerpted in part from the *Virginian-Pilot* article)



## Fall Blooming Goldenrods and Asters

Migrating Monarchs depend largely on goldenrod and asters for their journey south. With so many varieties to choose from, these two plants are some of the most recognizable late season wildflowers attracting loads of late season pollinating insects. In the winter, they provide food and habitat for many birds and small animals that feast on the seeds and find shelter in the dried stalks. Asters range in colors from blue, purple, pink to white; and complement the goldenrods with their abundant yellow flower clusters. These two wildflower groups brighten the fall landscape whether in a tidy garden, a meadow or at a woodland edge. University of Delaware entomologist, Doug Tallamy, lists asters and goldenrods as the wildflowers that support the most species of butterflies and moths. For pictures, Latin names, and plant descriptions go to: <https://wildseedproject.net/2017/09/beauty-pollinator-benefits-asters-goldenrods/>

—Patricia Quinn, Secretary



Amy pictured with her 2011 Wildflower of the Year poster. Each year the designs have increased in complexity.



I go to nature to be soothed  
and healed, and to have my  
senses put in order.

—John Burroughs

## 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. Due to COVID, we have temporarily suspended the light refreshments before the meeting. If you choose, please bring your own beverage and/or snack in a non-disposable container that you take with you after the meeting. You are encouraged to come at 6:30 to catch up with friends (masks and safe distancing). 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 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. Gates close at 7:00pm.*

### 2020-2021 Meeting and Event Schedule

September 24	Speaker: Kaitlyn Silver, Southern Branch Nursery, butterfly presentation.
October 22	Speaker: Stuart McCausland, retired Entomologist, who has a passion for taking great photos of insects on native plants.
November 19	Note: 3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving. Seed Swap. Speaker to be confirmed. Tentatively Alissa Bunner, Virginia-Pilot.
December	No meeting. NBG Gathering of the Gardeners is cancelled due to COVID.

Search is underway for speakers for these dates:

January 28  
February 25  
March 25  
April 22  
May 27

## 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

Steve Stasulis 757-486-5485 [stasuliss@hotmail.com](mailto:stasuliss@hotmail.com)

Vacant

Pat Quinn 757-321-8137 [paquinn726@gmail.com](mailto:paquinn726@gmail.com)

Kathleen Stasulis 757-486-5485 [stasuliss@hotmail.com](mailto:stasuliss@hotmail.com)

Vickie Shufer 757-421-3929 [wildfood@cox.net](mailto:wildfood@cox.net)

Yolima Carr 757-392-7132 x222 [ycarr@elizabethriver.org](mailto:ycarr@elizabethriver.org)

Sandy Ricks 757-318-1271 [sandy.ricks@cox.net](mailto:sandy.ricks@cox.net)

Toni Viudez 757-746-7789 [toni.viudez@gmail.com](mailto:toni.viudez@gmail.com)

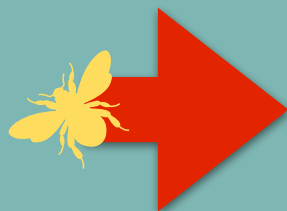
M.C. King 757-969-0279 [gardengirl569@gmail.com](mailto:gardengirl569@gmail.com)

Amy Jones 757-410-8754 [amynally1@aol.com](mailto:amynally1@aol.com)

Pat Quinn 757-321-8137 [paquinn726@gmail.com](mailto:paquinn726@gmail.com)

Susan Marens 757-228-5331 [ccrnat06@gmail.com](mailto:ccrnat06@gmail.com)

Vacant - One position



## Chapter Board of Directors...Volunteers Needed

We still have vacancies on the board. Elected positions are staggered two-year terms. President and Treasurer run through October 31, 2021. Vice President and Secretary terms are ending October 31, 2020, and are coming up for election again. Also, the appointed position for Hospitality will be open starting in February, 2021. A Director-At-Large is also open now.

Please consider volunteering and submit your name to Steve Stasulis at [stasuliss@hotmail.com](mailto:stasuliss@hotmail.com).

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## Newsletter

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter. I welcome any feedback and suggestions. If there's a topic you'd like to see covered or you would like to submit an article, please email me.

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  
[gardengirl569@gmail.com](mailto:gardengirl569@gmail.com)