

# Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

## President's March Native Notes

Betsy Washington

**Happy First Day of Spring!** The temperatures this morning registered well below freezing but I am happy to report that the Spring fairies have been sprinkling fairy dust and spring wildflowers throughout our Northern Neck. Woodlands abound with Hepaticas, Virginia Heartleaf, Spring Beauty, Toothwort and Bloodroot to name a few and more wildflowers continue to open nearly every day. Last week, the rare Sweet Pinesap, Virginia Pennywort, the rare Mountain disjunct Marsh Marigolds, the diminutive Southern Twayblade Orchid, Trailing Arbutus and several Violets were blooming in our Natural Area Preserves and surrounds. Northern Spicebush and Eastern Redbud were starting to bloom. Be sure to get out and enjoy this early spring!



Bloodroot



Trailing Arbutus



Golden Ragwort



Eastern Redbud

The March Plant of the Month is our beautiful and precocious **Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis***. Members should have received an email copy; if not *Check out our Plant of the Month Article on our Website at [www.NNVNPS.org](http://www.NNVNPS.org), on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/NN.NativePlants>*

### POP-UP FIELD TRIP TO SEE BLOODROOT

Speaking of Bloodroot, we had a lovely **“Pop-Up” Field trip** on the last day of February to admire the flowering bloodroot colonies at members’ Lucy and Frank Martin’s lovely garden on the Corrotoman River. Bloodroot normally (if there is a normal anymore with the increasingly warm winters!) bloom in early to mid March, but this year they unfurled their buds and first flowers nearly three weeks ahead of schedule on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at Lucy Martin’s. We enjoyed beautiful sunny spring weather and the Bloodroot were flaunting their exquisite blooms and their pollinators! Look for more Pop-Up Field Trips as spring continues. Fascinating Field Trip pictures:



Bloodroot flowers



Chatting about Bloodroot



Note Bloom with Honeybee



Note Bloom with Calligrapher Bee

**Did you know that many of our wildflowers have specialist bees that require their specific pollen to feed their young?**  
Photos by Betsy Washington except Calligrapher Bee photo by Anne Parker

**This Saturday, March 25, the NN Master Gardeners are holding their annual Symposium and several VNPS Members will be manning a VNPS table, distributing native plant guides and answering any native plant questions. Please stop by, if attending!**

## NN VNPS March 16<sup>th</sup> Recap of Zoom Presentation

Susan Abraham, **Landscape Designer, Restoration Specialist and sustainable Landscape Designer Susan Abraham** presented March's zoom program with before and after photos of landscapes she has designed including both small suburban gardens as well as large meadows, vernal pools, restored woodlands, and stormwater management all with beautiful native plantings. Her landscapes create habitat for both humans and wildlife and restore the ecological function of the landscape. She shared photos of her new 100-acre property in the Shenandoah Mts and her plans to "Rewild" it and restore habitat and ecological function with native plants. If you missed the program, it is available on our website at <https://www.nnvps.org/blog/presentation-from-march-16-2023-by-susan-abraham> be sure to copy the passcode listed to gain access to the video.

**INVASIVE PLANT BILLS Need Your Help!!!** Two bills (HB1998 and HB 2096) concerning invasive plants were passed in the Legislature with Bipartisan support. They await the Governor's signature which must be done by March 27 or they die. For many years, VNPS has worked to get some sort of invasive plant legislation passed, this is a good start. But needs the Governor's signature soon! You should have received a longer email about it a few days ago so please check that or at least **call the Governor at (804) 786-2211 and leave a message or chat with a staff member urging the Governor to sign HB 1998 and HB2096 before March 27.**

**MEMBERSHIP VOTES TO APPROVE THE BYLAW ADDENDUM** at the March General Meeting! We experimented with holding a vote during a zoom meeting and were successful with more than a quorum of members voting. Thanks everyone for making this process easy and effective. The Bylaws now accurately reflect our calendar year beginning in January and ending on December 31. We have informally followed this calendar since 2013 so it was definitely time to update our Bylaws with this amendment. We had about 35 members present at the General Meeting (plus several members of the public) in addition to proxy votes for folks that couldn't attend with all voting in favor.



### PROPAGATION PROGRAM AND WORKSHOP ON APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>



For our **April Program** (April 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30) we have a very special treat! Experienced Propagator & Chapter Member Pat Lust will be presenting a program on a variety of **Propagation Techniques** so that we can all learn to multiply our own native plants and also contribute plants to our Fall Plant Sale. Pat grows an astonishing diversity of native plants in her own backyard. She teaches propagation workshops at Community Colleges and for Master Gardeners Seminars around Virginia and we are fortunate indeed that she will be sharing her expertise. Bring a brown bag lunch and join other members at Wicomico Parish Church at noon to share stories and tidbits about our gardens, what's blooming and native plant explorations and enjoy the presentation at 12:30. Invite your friends, it is an open public meeting.

We still have a few spots open for members wanting to attend the propagation workshop that will take place after the presentation on April 20. Pat will lead a small, **hands-on workshop** where a few dedicated members will be able to get their hands dirty and propagate some native plants. The only requirement is that you are willing to take the lessons learned and grow these (and hopefully other) plants for our Fall Plant sale. Space is limited so please send an email to me ([bwash99@verizon.net](mailto:bwash99@verizon.net)) to reserve a spot.

**Save the Date:** Join us **May 18 Program** for a general meeting at the historic **Shiloh School**, on the corner of Shiloh School Road & Balls Bluff Rds., Northumberland County. Come learn about the garden and tour this lovely demonstration garden. **It is truly one of the best pollinator/butterfly gardens in NN!**

## Garden Work Day at Wilna Gardens at Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

On March 28 and April 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to noon a joint VNPS and NN Master Naturalist project have a garden work day. Bring a pair of garden gloves and your favorite weeding tools and join us at the Wilna Lodge at the Rappahannock River Valley Wildlife Refuge, Warsaw. Two gardens need to be tidied up for spring and can use a few enthusiastic volunteers. Email me at [bwash99@verizon.net](mailto:bwash99@verizon.net) if you need more information or show up.



Fall Work-day last November in the Pollinator/Native Plant Garden at Wilna Lodge. Photo by Karen Williams

### What's Blooming Now?

Follow the Northern Neck chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society on Facebook at [\(7\) Northern Neck Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society | Facebook](#) to see updates on what is blooming at many of the natural areas around Northern Neck and nearby. Here's a small sample!



Round-lobed Hepatica



Marsh Marigolds



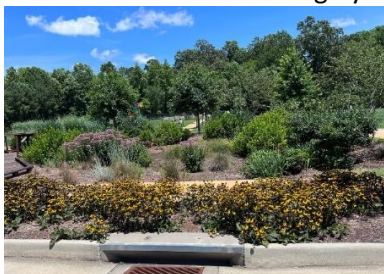
Several species of Violets



Spring Beauty

### New Signage at Kilmarnock Town Center Park Is Coming!

Northern Neck Chapter of Virginia Native Plants Society is collaborating with Friends of the Rappahannock to create a large educational sign for the Kilmarnock Town Center Park. This was planned before Covid to celebrate the fact that this garden contains five rain gardens to filter and absorb most to all of the runoff – all planted with Virginia Native Plants. Much of the garden also features native trees, shrubs and flowering perennials which make quite a show through the seasons! We can't wait to complete this sign and share our love of the beauty and ecological function of our Northern Neck Native Plants in this highly visited park. **Photos of the Park by Betsy Washington.**



## Plant Northern Neck Native Campaign

Did you know that our **Go Native, Grow Native Campaign** has grown and has a new name? Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program has coordinated a statewide campaign and most regions of the state now have their own Native Plant Guide and local campaign. You can read more about the statewide campaign on their website at [www.plantvirginianatives.org](http://www.plantvirginianatives.org).

Our Grow Native Campaign has grown a new name - "**Plant Northern Neck Natives**". Virginia Witmer, Coordinator for the statewide campaign, was an important player in providing funds and guidance for the start of our Plant Northern Neck Natives campaign. Did you know that Northern Neck was the second campaign, and our Guide was a model Native Plant Guide for other regions of the State? Which, incidentally, was published in a new expanded third edition last year!

Check out the state VNPS Newsletter, "**Sempervirens**", to read an article by Virginia Witmer about the Plant Virginia Natives Campaign and the many successes and updates from all of the Campaigns around the state, including our own Plant Northern Neck Natives campaign. As you will read, we are still a model campaign, and I would love to have enthusiastic volunteers join the effort. If you would like to help with presenting programs and meeting with our Vendor-partners in Northern Neck to urge them to sell Northern Neck Natives and to provide educational outreach materials, we need you! We have created a new Short List of highly recommended Native Plants to help local nurseries identify the "hottest selling" native plants with the most ecological value that will be sure-fire sellers at their nursery. As part of the Outreach efforts, I (**Betsy Washington**) will be presenting a program for our partner-vendor, **Dug In Farms on May 6** entitled, "**Plant This, Not That**" to help educate the public and promote Northern Neck native plants. **Northern Neck Master Gardener** (and VNPS member), **Carol Martin**, will also be presenting a program on **Native Shoreline Plants April 29th**. Further Interest – **Denise Green**, owner of Huckleberry Garden Design and former Sassafras Nursery owner is presenting a program entitled **Native Plants For Pollinators**. This is all part of a month-long Earth Day Celebration at Chapter partner Dug In Farms to promote Virginia Native Plants and their nursery. We are also scheduled to present programs to local Garden Clubs and other groups on the many benefits and joys of Native Plants!

Please send me an email ([bwash99@verizon.net](mailto:bwash99@verizon.net)) and volunteer to join this re-invigorated and exciting campaign. It is going to be fun and will help bring more Native Plants and Native Plant gardeners to the Northern Neck!

**Our new 2022 Expanded-Updated native Plant Guide & this Sticker will be available free at all our meetings.**

