



Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

"Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places"

NN Native Plant News

Spring 2012, Volume 9, No. 2

Old Courthouse Demonstration Garden

April 3, 2012



Our Old Courthouse Native Plant Demonstration Garden is now, I believe, in its 5th year. On Tuesday, April 3 we had great success in getting volunteers to help with both spring clean up. Brochures are there for the public to take and gain additional information on Virginia Native Plants. Please take your friends to see this every now and then as the plants bloom throughout the summer. It is amazing the transformation one sees from the spring clean up to mid summer. Thanks for a great job from all those who came out!



May 3, 2012

(after the river oats seedling removal)



Text and April Photos: Carol Hammer
May Photos: Earline Walker

Message from the President

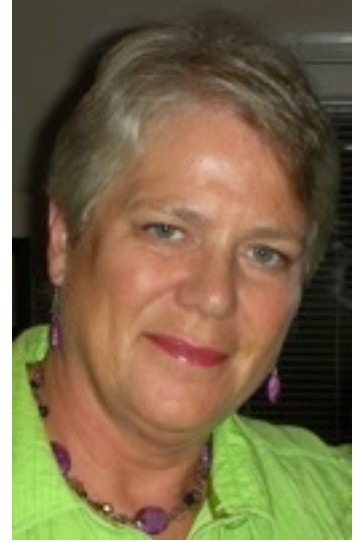
Where would we be without volunteers? In particular, as you are reading this and have read past issues of our chapters' newsletters, can you imagine the time, love and patience that goes into their production?

For the past several years, Judy Lang has edited and published this often looked forward to colorful and interesting newsletter. Of course it takes a village to supply that information in order to produce the wonderful volumes we cherish. Still, if not for her continued desire to produce a meaningful edition, where would we have been?



What will Judy do as she hands over the newsletter? What you may not know about Judy is that she is a "quasi-retired," marine biologist who helps coordinate a multinational effort to assess the condition of coral reefs in the wider Caribbean area and travel an outreach exhibit to promote their conservation. She currently writes our press releases and thus keenly aware, and regretful, of the many great activities she's had to miss this spring in taking advantage of a rare opportunity to survey some remote, offshore reefs.

We thank you Judy for not only your contribution to our chapter, but thank you and your colleagues for the work you are doing for the world. A job well done! (For those interested, please check out this video on YouTube to see Judy (at 7 minutes and 40 seconds into the clip) Global Reef Expedition: Mission Bahamas -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJ95Rgpv7mc>.



Katherine Paris joined our membership this January and has now taken over editing and publishing our chapter's newsletter. She moved to the Northern Neck area last April retiring after almost 32 years with the USDA, Forest Service. She served as the National Budget Coordinator for the agency and assisted in the publication of numerous annual budget proposals, including the agency's national budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget and the President's submission to Congress. Katherine currently is the editor for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Chapter 1823's newsletter. In her free time she enjoys boating, fishing, and gardening and spending time with family and friends. We welcome Katherine on board and are pleased to have another talented volunteer to continue to produce our newsletter of which we are so proud.



We welcome all who want to volunteer to join any of our active committees. You will find it rewarding and make new friendships.

Carol Hammer

Along Came a Spider

At our February meeting Teta Kain presented a most interesting and colorful program on spiders. Besides having two body parts, whereas insects have three, I found most interesting the fact that spiders have 8 eyes yet they cannot see very well. Teta explained the different silk webs that they produce as well as showing minute detail so we could see where a spider web started and its ending point. Using mostly her own vivid photographs, her program was as informative as it was fun!



Teta

Text and Photos: Carol Hammer

Native Plant Center Chesapeake Region

In 2003, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the publication, *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. Citizens, schools, non profit organizations, communities and government agencies used this resource to find the native plants that met their local conditions and interests in order to create landscapes to attract wildlife and reduce the amount of pollutants going into the Chesapeake Bay.

To reach more citizens and organizations, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service envisioned an online version of the guide, the Native Plants Center Chesapeake Region. This expanded online guide includes a geo-locator feature to identify plants suited to your location, a searchable database of the native plants that meet your conditions, and (coming soon) an online network to interact with other Chesapeake Bay stewards.

For more information go to nativeplantcenter.net.

NNVNPS Out Walking and Working

Northumberland Elementary School



Paula Boundy

On February 9th, Paula Boundy led a walk at the Northumberland Elementary School where there is a path that was made by a local Boy Scout Troop. It was a cold day and windy, but once on the path and protected by the trees, it was a lovely walk in the woods. We found a large grouping of *Tipularia discolor*, crane-fly orchis, an orchid whose leaves one sees in the winter and only the blossoms in the summer, but never the both together. The beech trees still holding onto their leaves were another interesting sight. In trying to find some skunk cabbage we found quite a large spread of *Hexastylis virginica*, or wild ginger. We look forward to walking this trail again in the spring and summer to see what wildflowers we can find.



Hexastylis virginica, wild ginger



Tipularia discolor, crane-fly orchis



Lycopodium



big beech tree



lichen



leaf scar *Ailanthus altissima*



wax myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*

Text and Photos: Carol Hammer

Chilton Woods State Forest

Log Bridge

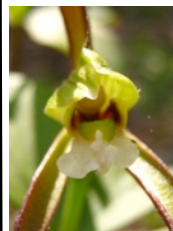


Text: Earline Walker
Photo: Carol Hammer

Recent maintenance by VDOT on Field Trial Road damaged one of the trail heads to Chilton Woods. When it rained, it turned into a muddy mess. During the monthly work day on March 28, members of the Northern Neck chapter installed this log bridge making the trail accessible again in all weather conditions.

Chapter members Nick Ferriter, Jeff Wainscott, Jim Kurdziel, DOF forestry technician, Mike Aherron and Earline Walker, assisted in building this log bridge at Chilton Woods (shown above on the completed bridge are Jim Kurdziel and Earline Walker).

New Orchid Find



large whorled pogonias

On April 21, a group from the NN Chapter of VNPS on a spring ephemerals walk at Chilton Woods discovered a nice population of *Isoetes verticillata*, the large whorled pogonia. First Nick Ferriter spotted a single pogonia and shortly afterwards Jackie Ferriter found a clump of them. This marks what I think is the ninth species of native orchid at Chilton Woods, surpassing the orchid count at Hickory Hollow by one! This is only the second place in Lancaster county where we've discovered this elusive native orchid.



pink lady's slipper

We also saw showy orchids, pink lady's slippers, winter leaves of puttyroot, shoots of yellow crested orchid, and some elderly Southern twayblades. Six of the nine orchid species!

Text and Pogonia Photos: Ellis Squires
Lady's Slipper Photo: Janet Pawlukiewicz

Annual Skunk Cabbage Walk



Tipularia discolor pods

Our chapter's annual skunk cabbage walk in Cabin Swamp at Hickory Hollow at the end of January was a great success. We drew 20 folks and I'm sure the good weather had a lot to do with that. We broke up into 2 groups, Jackie Ferriter, a master gardener, along with her husband Nick Ferriter, led the first group that went off to see the skunk cabbage walking at a good pace. A second group, led by Ellis Squires, a Master Naturalist with a background in horticulture, took the same walk at a slower pace to stop and see what else could be found in the winter weather. I walked with the latter group.

Of course we saw the object of our walk, the skunk cabbage in bloom, but we also saw several other plants that were new to some of us having never noticed them in Hickory Hollow before. Two types of grape fern were found and quite pretty with a copper color. Both looked lacy and grew near each other in places.



Ellis Squires

In addition we saw remnants of other orchids. The *Tipularia discolor*, or crane fly orchis leaves were their usual green on top and purple underneath and in abundance along the path. We did find one *Tipularia discolor* with seeds still dried out and hanging on to the rachis. Other ferns seen were the Christmas fern and ebony spleenwort, both evergreens.

The skunk cabbage is truly an interesting plant, one that provides its own heat and can melt snow if need be. The colors of the blossom and the interior when magnified are very interesting to see. If you have never come on one of our walks, consider doing so as even in the dead of winter; nature is alive and colorful.



Tipularia discolor leaves



grape ferns



*Jeff Wainscott test smelling
skunk cabbage*



skunk cabbage bloom



grape fern

Text and Photos: Carol Hammer

Tallest Tree Hike



On Sunday April 15, 10 members of the Rivanna MN chapter, myself, and Charlie and Hilda Wilson, led by John Holden, hiked 2 miles up into the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness seeking the tallest tree in Virginia, an eastern white pine. We crawled over and under a couple of downed trees and crossed Ramsey's Draft at least 10 times. The way was carpeted with wildflowers in peak bloom which slowed us down as we stopped to admire the variety displayed. Making it to the tree in a reasonable time seemed impossible as there was so much else to enjoy. We spent 1.5 hours only completing the first mile.

We continued at a regular pace walking on rock paths and crossing the stream until we thought we were in the vicinity of the tallest tree. This White Pine in Augusta County is about 190 feet tall and the branches don't start until 100 feet. Mentioned in Nancy Rosss Hugo's book, Remarkable Trees of Virginia (pg. 141), the *Pinus strobus* was our goal. John rechecked his calculations and we had apparently overshot the tree a few tenths of a mile, so we headed back and soon found the magnificent specimen not far off the path. All enjoyed having their photos taken in front of this incredible tree.



We walked 4 miles and took 5.5 hours to complete the trek. I don't believe anyone had dry feet, but we were comfortable as it was a warm day. It is a place of beauty and serenity and one cannot go at a running pace even if one wanted to. The sad part is this area was home to virgin hemlocks now almost all gone due to the hemlock wooly adelgid. It would have been amazing to see this when they were all still standing!

Text and Photos: Carol Hammer

2013 Flower of the Year

The *Cercis canadensis*, eastern redbud, won the Virginia Native Plant Society's flower of the year for 2013. Eastern redbud is a large shrub or small tree native to eastern North America from Southern Ontario, Canada south to northern Florida. In the wild, eastern redbud is a frequent native understory tree in mixed forest and hedgerows. It is also much planted as a landscape ornamental plant.



The flowers are showy, light to dark magenta pink in color, appearing in clusters from March to May, on bare stems before the leaves, sometimes on the trunk itself. The flowers are pollinated by long-tongued bees such as blueberry bees and carpenter bees. Short-tongued bees apparently cannot reach the nectaries. The fruit are flattened, dry, brown, pea-like pods, that contain flat, elliptical, brown seeds, maturing in August to October.

Text and Photos: Wikipedia

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Nancy Garvey 436-8401 nangarvey@hotmail.com
 HorticulturePaula Boundy
 HospitalityPam Collins, Jane Peterson
 MembershipJohn Krainock 472-3051 jkrainock@usa.net
 Newsletter.....Katherine Paris 472-3523 bayfishers3@aol.com
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SpeakersCarol Hammer
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Nick Ferriter 462-6242 Ferriter@aol.com
 PublicityJudy Lang 453-6605 jlang@riposi.net
Susan Christopher (Church liason)
 Ways & MeansJudy Lang

Other Board Members

Ex-President.....Marie Minor
 Members at Large...Jeff Wainscot bramwood@kaballero.com
Bette Gruben bettegruben@gmail.com

Membership Fees

Individual: \$30
Family: \$40
Secondary: \$5 (goes to another chapter)

Send your check to:

VNPS Membership Chair
 Blandy Experimental Farm
 400 Blandy Lane, Unit 2
 Boyce, VA 22602

In the lower left hand corner of your check add:

"Membership, Northern Neck Chapter"

All memberships are good for one year from the month you join.

The state office of VNPS will send you a renewal reminder.

All but \$5.00 of any membership is tax deductible.

Please Help Us Keep in Touch with You!

Whenever your email address, phone number or postal address changes, please contact:

John Krainock at jkrainock@usa.net or (804) 472-3051

Whenever you can, please carpool to our meetings, field outings and other activities.

Friend Us on Facebook!

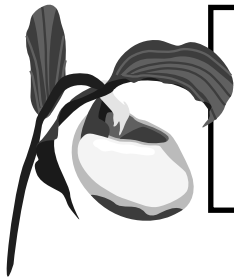
Northern Neck Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society

**NN Chapter of the VNPS Outings and Meetings Calendar:
Chapter Meetings & Saturday Outings are open to the public**

May 5, Sat.	10:00 am to Noon - Invasives Day Belle Isle State Park and 1-3 pm - Chilton Woods , Earline Walker (contact). At Noon, hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and snacks will be provided by Master Naturalists and our Native Plant Chapter. Bring a dish to share and of course implements and gloves to perform work.
May 10, Thur.	8:45 a.m. Sassafras Farm Visit, Hayes, VA. Carpool from Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock, Denise Green (leader), Paula Boundy (local contact).
May 17, Thur.	Noon. Orchids of the Northern Neck. Ellis Squires will give a presentation, Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church and will lead a walk at 2:00 pm at Hickory Hollow. Bring bag lunch.
May 30, Wed.	10:00 a.m. Work Day Chilton Woods , Earline Walker (contact).
June 14, Thur.	9:30 am. Garden at Hills Quarters , Irvington, VA, Paula Boundy (leader).
June 23, Sat.	9:30 a.m. Reedvile Fishermen's Museum Garden , Susan Tipton (leader), followed by our own demonstration garden at the Old Courthouse in Heathsville, Earline Walker and Gary Chafin (leaders).
July 19, Thur.	10:00 a.m. Westmoreland State Park Walk. Bring bathing suit and picnic for after the walk (leader TBA).
Aug. 16, Thur.	10:00 a.m. Belle Isle State Park Wildflowers Walk , Nick Ferriter (leader).
Sep. 8, Sat.	9:00 a.m to Noon. Plant Sale , Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church.
Sep. 15, Sat.	Yearly VNPS Conference, Richmond, VA.
Sep. 20, Thur.	Noon. Gardening for Birds and Butterflies , Paula Boundy (leader), Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00)

Expect more! Additional outings will be announced to our members via email.

Driving directions will be emailed to members in the week before each outing.
To learn more, contact: Carol Hammer, 453-5500 or caroljhammer@aol.com



Northern Neck Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 339
Ophelia, VA 22530

**Marie Minor's Botanical Surveys
Chilton Woods**

All VNPS members are welcome to walk with Marie as she botanizes the Doghouse Trail Ditch Flora. **Please note that the starting time has changed to 9:00 am.** Bring water, bug spray when needed; if you wish, binoculars, camera and field guides.

Dates: 1st and 3rd Wed. of each month:
May 2 & 16
June 6 & 20
July 18
August 1 & 15
Sept. 5 & 19

*All rain dates will be on the following
Wednesdays.*

For information on where to meet or check on rain dates, contact Marie at:

(804) 925-5950

Check Out These New Websites

- www.newenglandwild.org/gobotany New England Wild Flower Society for identification and learning about 1,200 of the more common New England plants. There is also a great tutorial on video at www.newenglandwild.org/learn/gobotany/tutorial-for-go-botany.html/
- www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/np.cfm Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR's) Virginia Native Plant Finder

Newsletter: three issues annually.

**Send ideas, articles, photos, etc.,
by July 15th to bayfishers3@aol.com**

Note expiration date if received by mail.
Please renew as needed if record is correct, or contact us if incorrect.