



Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society  
"Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places"

# NN Native Plant News

Winter, Volume 11, No. 1

NORTHERN NECK CHAPTER  
Virginia Native Plant Society

## The Flora of Virginia Project

The Flora of Virginia Project was undertaken in 2001 to steer the creation of the first comprehensive reference work on the native and naturalized plants of Virginia. The Project undertook a fourfold mission:



Lindsey Gardne (Library Director) and  
Tanya Bolkhe  
Lancaster Community Library.

- To produce a comprehensive manual of the plants of Virginia.
- To provide a tool for plant identification and study by professional and avocational users, from academia, government, industry, and the public.
- To incorporate the latest genetics-based information on evolutionary relationships, along with the best traditional taxonomic approaches.
- To increase appreciation of and interest in conservation of Virginia's diverse and unique botanical heritage.



John Krainock and Aimme Dillon (Manager)  
Central Rappahannock Regional Library,  
Newton Branch, Hague

The Flora of Virginia project is one of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society (NNNPS) oldest (and undoubtedly major) educational efforts that we have supported by donating copies to Northern Neck libraries. The *Flora of Virginia*, published in November 2012, describes 3,154 plant species or lower taxa in nearly 200 families, accompanied by 1,400 captioned, scaled, and botanically accurate illustrations. Just published barely a year ago, *The Flora of Virginia* surprised everyone by selling out in 11 months. The second printing should be available in January.



Marie Minor, Dan Ream (Library Director),  
and Jim Kurdziel,  
Richmond County Public Library, Warsaw



Ted Munns, Jane Peterson, Alice Cooper (Library Director),  
Susan Christopher, and Earline Walker  
Northumberland Public Library, Heathsville

For further information on the Flora of Virginia  
Project please visit

<http://floraofvirginia.org/>

## Message from the President

By the time you read this, the year 2013 will be just a memory. And what a memorable year it was for the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society! We have moved beyond “just being a plant sale club” by rolling out our Go Native-Grow Native initiative where we partnered with local nurseries, the Master Naturalists, and Master Gardeners in promoting plants native to Virginia’s Coastal Plain. Generous grants have allowed us to publish and distribute (free) a beautifully illustrated guide to native plant selections. A new landscaping plan using local natives was developed and distributed to the public free of cost. A new initiative of establishing a native garden at the Northumberland High School was designed and planted adjacent to the school greenhouse and will be maintained by the Special Needs students.



Our monthly meetings have showcased a vast diversity of speakers and topics and are always well attended resulting in a nice increase in new memberships. We have had to purchase a portable microphone system to allow our soft-spoken guests to be heard at the Wicomico Parish Hall. Guided walks in Chilton Woods, Hickory Hollow, Belle Isle State Park, Dameron Marsh/Hughlett Point and local trails are always a welcome excursion where we can identify plants of local interest, point out invasives that need eradication, and surprise ourselves with the discovery of some rare (or overlooked) orchid or lichen.

Some of our members have showcased their photographs at the historic Shiloh School and at Kinsale Days and have won acclaim when entered into state and local competitions. A portable, professionally-prepared display board was made again showcasing select photographs and a portable “live flower” display was rolled out which augment the photograph display. A “Friends don’t let Friends Plant Invasives” t-shirt was designed and limited editions were produced and sold. The many long years of research, scholarly discussion, and final publication of the Flora of Virginia by the Virginia Native Plant Society have handsomely paid off. We were able to present one copy of the over 1,000 page book to the libraries of the four counties making up the Northern Neck. Monthly, we submitted a “Native Plant of the Month” to the newspapers who publish the write-up with an accompanying color photograph.

Our increase by one to two sponsorships of youngsters from the Kilmarnock Boys & Girls Club to Nature Camp has been recognized by the community as was our presence at the annual Edwardsville Parade event. A garden bench honoring Amy Wilson was installed at the Old Courthouse in Heathsville where we maintain our demonstration garden and a box was installed to distribute literature about native plants here in the Northern Neck. Amy was a founding member of the Northern Neck Chapter. New paths and trails were established in 2013 and old ones maintained and improved. All of these wonderful accomplishments were not done alone. Each and every member has contributed something beneficial to our success. We will continue to build upon these accomplishments as we proceed in 2014 and beyond. Thank you for all that you do!

*Ted Munns*

### Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society Profit & Loss Actual to Budget For year ending October 31, 2013

Description	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Dues	1,073	1,068
Gifts	135	50
Interest income	5	5
Fund raising		
Plant sale	4,745	3,500
Ways & Means	881	50
Go Native	3,000	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,839</b>	<b>4,673</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Church donation	250	250
Conference	666	700
Garden maintenance	25	140
Honorarium	675	705
Hospitality	158	125
Library & education	175	520
Newsletter	200	620
Office Supplies	54	0
Postage	46	16
Printing	746	300
Gift Membership	90	90
Internet	45	0
Flora of Virginia	100	0
Plant Sale	1,982	700
Ways & Means	825	200
Go Native	2,742	8,000
Special Projects	2,053	1,900
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>10,833</b>	<b>14,266</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>-993</b>	<b>-9,593</b>



## Past Fall Meetings

### Vernal Pools



At our September meeting, Anne Wright, an environmental educator at VCU, presented "Vulnerable Vernal Pools: Underdogs of the Wetland World" to the group. Ann showed us that Vernal pools can be small as mud puddles, in which trees and leaves play dramatic roles, and explained how they are critical for the reproduction of Virginia's salamanders.

*Photo: R. Dyer*

### Garden Plans

At our October meeting, Paula Boundy, Certified Virginia Master Naturalist and designer of the new Garden plans, distributed the plans to the group and showed us how to start a sun or shade garden with local native plants. In addition, special guests, Deshay Smith and Ronya Neal, our 2013 Nature Camp recipients, provided the group with a briefing of their Nature Camp adventures this past summer.



*Photo: Carol Hammer*

### Native Azaleas

At our November meeting, George McLellan provided the group with a beautiful power point presentation on native azaleas.



*George McLellan inspects a red flame azalea.*

An active member of many plant societies and an expert photographer, McLellan founded the Species Study Group of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society - a group of dedicated enthusiasts who've pioneered the rescue and reestablishment of native azalea populations in the Great Smoky and Snowbird Mountains of North Carolina. In 2007 McLellan was awarded the Society's Silver Medal for his sustained efforts to locate, document, describe and preserve the 15 species of East Coast native azaleas.

*Photo: Don Hyatt*

## Upcoming Meetings

### In Search of the Wild Skunk Cabbage



"Why are we so interested in skunk cabbages?" is the question that Jackie Ferriter will ask at the January meeting of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society (NNNPS). "Skunk cabbage, a member of arum family, is interesting because it comes up in the winter," said retired consumer protection lawyer Ferriter. "What's really amazing is that it can create enough heat to melt through snow and ice in order to bloom. Finding some presents a challenge because it's not a showy plant, which is why the NNNPS goes looking for them every winter." Ferriter is a Master Gardener Water Steward who works on shoreline erosion issues and is a volunteer, and former board member, of the Lancaster Community Library.

"Skunk cabbage is native to Virginia and grows near streams," added education co-chairman Carol Hammer. "Apparently skunk cabbage smells when it is crushed so try to avoid stepping on any if you crouch down to photograph the plants."

*Photo: Earline Walker*

## How They Do It: Plant Sex



How do plants make flowers? Come find out at our February meeting of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society (NNNPS). While the pollination of agricultural crops by bees is familiar, less well known are the interactions of the microscopic sperm and eggs in vascular plants, and how mosses and ferns send out swimming sperm in a drop of water. A light-hearted and informative look at how plants implement and prevent self-pollination, and how plant reproduction is facilitated by the wind, insects, mammals, and us humans. The talk is illustrated with powerpoint slides and handouts.

Helen Hamilton taught biology in local high schools, worked as a plant technician for the National Park Service, and completed Master Gardening training in 2004. She has been president of the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and Program/Publicity Chair for the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Her book “Wildflowers and Grasses of Virginia’s Coastal Plain,” published last summer, is a field guide to local plants commonly found along roadsides and in lawns.

*Photo: Fred Blystone*

## 2014 Tentative Education and Outreach Calendar

During January Carol Hammer and Nancy Garvey will be setting dates for education/outreach activities. We encourage all members to join us whenever possible for these events. They are fun and have been especially gratifying this past year as the successful Plant Northern Neck Natives Campaign has raised awareness of the importance of planting native plants and provided materials that the public is anxious to get. We are looking forward to another exciting year. Watch for activity sign up sheets at our monthly meeting or let one of us know if you can help at one or more of the dates.

### Many thanks to our volunteers at the 2013 events!

Ted Munns, Nick Ferriter, Paula Boundy,  
Jeff Wainscott, Janet Pawlukiewicz,  
Darlene and Rhon Nelson, Judy Lang,  
John Krainock, Marie Minor,  
Earline Walker, Jim Kurdziel,  
and Tanya Bohlke,

February thru November	Ongoing planning for the collaboration between the Native Plant Society and the Boys & Girls Club to assist the club members with learning about and planting native plants. Install Native plant borders around Flight Cage at Wild Bunch Rehabilitation Site in Warsaw pending grant funding. Farmers' Markets (tentative)
March 29 Saturday	<b>8:00am - 1:00pm.</b> <i>Northern Neck Master Gardeners' Seminar.</i> Church of the Nazarine, White Stone, VA
May 24, Saturday	<b>9:00am - 3:00pm.</b> <i>St. Stephens Strawberry Festival.</i> St. Stephens's Episcopal Church Grounds, Heathsville, VA
Spring thru Summer (TBD)	<b>10:00 am - 2:00 pm.</b> Information tables at Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland libraries.
Sept. 6, Saturday	<b>9:00 am - 1:00 pm.</b> <i>NNVNPS Plant Sale.</i> Wicomico Episcopal Church
Sept. 6, Saturday	<b>TBD.</b> <i>Edwardsville Fall Festival.</i> Contacts: Nancy Garvey, Ted Munns, and Judy Lang
Sept. 20, Saturday	<b>9:00am - 2:00pm.</b> <i>Kinsale Days.</i> Contacts: Lynn Norris (804-450-7651), John Krainock, and Rhon and Darlene Nelson. Can sell plants and items.
Sept. (TBD)	<b>3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.</b> <i>Boots, Bids and BQ.</i>
Oct. (TBD)	<b>10:00 am - 4:00 pm.</b> <i>Rappahanock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge Open House.</i> Hutchinson Tract.

## American Holly

American holly (*Ilex opaca*) is a common understory tree found growing naturally throughout the Northern Neck. It grows up to 50 feet in height but is usually smaller (up to 30 feet) in our area. Young trees tend to be pyramidal but older trees can be variable in shape and quite picturesque.



*American holly with berries in the snow*

Like most hollies, it has waxy leaves with spiny teeth which make it unappealing to deer; however, the word is a favorite of beavers. The small white fragrant flowers appear in late spring followed by green berries which mature to a red color in October. The berries often persist throughout the winter.

In the home landscape, it can be used as a specimen tree or put in groupings. Male and female plants must be present for fruit to set. Usually only one male is needed for every three or four female trees. Do not plant it in extremely windy, dry exposed locations. A well-drained, partially shaded location is best, although it will grow in full sun.

Songbirds are attracted to its berries and the flowers are sought out by many beneficial insects. Sprigs of holly berries and leaves make lovely winter decorations.

Visit Go Native–Grow Native at [nnpns.org](http://nnpns.org) to learn more about the many benefits of planting Northern Neck natives.

*Photo: Janet Pawlukiewicz*

## Save the Date!

### 21st Annual Gardening in the Northern Neck

**March 29, 2014**  
**8:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**Church of the Nazarene**  
**57 Wisk Drive, White Stone, VA**

Speakers//topics include:

- **Bryce Lane**, Instructor, N.C. State University and TV Host. *"If You Build It, They Will Come: Understanding and Improving Garden Soils."*
- **Janet Pawlukiewicz**, NNNPS Chair, Go Native-Grow Native Campaign. *"Plant NNK Natives: Go Native, Grow Native."*
- **Denise Greene**, Owner, Sassafras Farms, Hayes, VA. *"Landscaping with Natives."*
- **Holly Shimizu**, Executive Director, US Botanic Garden. *"Influences and Inspirations for Today's Sustainable Garden."*

Registration forms will be available at [www.nnmg.org](http://www.nnmg.org) after February 1, 2014. Registration fee: \$25

### Officers

President.....Ted Munns 453-3621 [tedmunns@kaballero.com](mailto:tedmunns@kaballero.com)  
 Vice President .....Paula Boundy 436-4944 [paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net](mailto:paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net)  
 Secretaries:  
 Recording .....Janet Pawlukiewicz 202-494-2270 [flickerhill@earthlink.net](mailto:flickerhill@earthlink.net)  
 Corresponding...Bonnie Wilson 453-7036 [bbwilson@kaballero.com](mailto:bbwilson@kaballero.com)  
 Treasurer .....John Krainock 472-3051 [jkrainock@usa.net](mailto:jkrainock@usa.net)

### Committee Chairs

Conservation.....Paula Boundy  
 Education.....Nancy Garvey 436-8401 [nangarvey@hotmail.com](mailto:nangarvey@hotmail.com)  
 .....Carol Hammer 453-5500 [caroljhammer@gmail.com](mailto:caroljhammer@gmail.com)  
 Horticulture .....Gary Chafin  
 Hospitality .....Pam Collins, Jane Peterson  
 Membership .....John Krainock 472-3051 [jkrainock@usa.net](mailto:jkrainock@usa.net)  
 Newsletter.....Katherine Paris 472-3523 [bayfishers3@aol.com](mailto:bayfishers3@aol.com)  
 Nominating.....Open  
 Programs:  
 Speakers .....Open  
 Outings .....Paula Boundy 436-4944 [paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net](mailto:paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net)  
 Publicity .....Judy Lang 453-6605 [klang@riposi.net](mailto:klang@riposi.net)  
 .....Susan Christopher (Church liaison)  
 Ways & Means .....Judy Lang 453-6605 [klang@riposi.net](mailto:klang@riposi.net)

### Other Board Members

Ex-President.....Carol Hammer [caroljhammer@gmail.com](mailto:caroljhammer@gmail.com)  
 Members at Large...Jeff Wainscott [bramwood@kaballero.com](mailto:bramwood@kaballero.com)  
 .....Bette Gruben [bettegruben@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jkrainock@usa.net) or  
 (804) 472-3051

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

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

Jan. 16, Thursday	<b>Noon.</b> <i>In Search of the Wild Skunk Cabbage.</i> Speaker: Jackie Ferriter. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
Feb. 20, Thursday.	<b>Noon.</b> <i>How They Do It: Plant Sex.</i> Speaker: Helen Hamilton. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
March 20, Thursday	<b>Noon.</b> <i>TBD.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
April 17, Thursday	<b>Noon.</b> <i>TBD.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).

**Welcome to Our  
Newest Members**

*Lee Goodman, Julie Hendrickson,  
Kathleen Hoeck, Robert Lumsden,  
Pat McMurray, Phoebe Mix,  
and Karen Peterson*

**Visit Our Chapter Website at:**

<http://www.nnnps.org>

**Other Websites of Interest**

<http://vnps.org>

<http://www.nativeseednetwork.org>

**Newsletter: three issues annually.**

**Send ideas, articles, photos, etc.,  
by April 1st to  
[bayfishers3@aol.com](mailto:bayfishers3@aol.com)**

**Friend Us on Facebook!**

Northern Neck Chapter Virginia  
Native Plant Society

***Be Sure to Check Your Local Paper for More Details on  
NNNPS Meetings and Events***

***Expect More!***

Additional outings will be announced to our members via email.  
All walks are weather permitting. If any doubt, call Paula Boundy at 804-436-4944  
Driving directions will be emailed to members in the week before each outing.  
***To learn more, contact: Ted Munns, 453-3621 or [tedmunns@kaballero.com](mailto:tedmunns@kaballero.com)***



**Northern Neck Chapter  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
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Note expiration date if received by mail.  
Please renew as needed if record is correct, or contact us if incorrect..