



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

NN Native Plant News

Winter, Volume 12, No. 1

NORTHERN NECK CHAPTER
Virginia Native Plant Society

Go Native—Grow Native Plants Festival

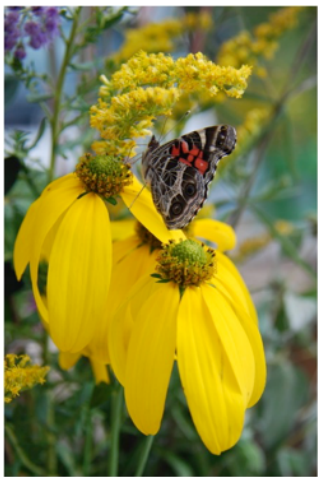


"John Clayton" joined forces with Paula Boundy, from the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and Matt Peterschmidt, Director of Landscapes at Stratford Hall, to plant a sweetbay magnolia as a dedication of the proposed native plant exhibit on the grounds of Stratford Hall.

The first annual Go Native—Grow Native Plants Festival at Stratford Hall on October 4, 2014, was quite a success. Many visitors expressed appreciation that there was an event that focused on the environmental benefits of native plants.

Historian and actor Dick Cheatham's portrayal John Clayton, Virginia's first colonial botanist and resident of Gloucester County, gave festival-goers a better understanding of the challenges of life and scientific pursuits in the 18th Century. Wearing a period costume, "John Clayton" described his expeditions all over Virginia to collect plant specimens and explained the difficulties of preserving the collected materials for scientific studies. With humor and candor, he reflected on his friendships with the Lee family, on whose property he was speaking, and other great leaders of the day such as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. He later dedicated a native plant garden by ceremoniously planting a sweetbay magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*, donated by Mount Vernon.

Among the other speakers, Janet Pawlukiewicz, director of the Go Native—Grow Native campaign for the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, kicked off the event with a photo journal on the complex interactions among native plants, birds and butterflies. Paula Boundy, certified Master Naturalist, presented garden plans using native plants, showing how the flowers change from season to season. Carol Heiser from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Habit Partners Program made a compelling case that habitat loss dramatically affects wildlife. Simply changing a small portion of lawn to a native plant garden or adding some native trees or shrubs to your landscape will help support the birds and butterflies you cherish.



The decorations made by the members of the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club even attracted pollinators! Here, an American Lady Butterfly (*Vanessa virginiana*) settled on a cut-leaf or green-headed coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*).

Many interesting exhibits and activities kept festival participants busy. The Chesapeake Bay Garden Club made beautiful arrangements with native plants and invited visitors to take them home. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries joined forces with the Coastal Zone Program to highlight the plight of the monarch butterfly due to the declining population of milkweed. Because the monarch butterfly caterpillar only eats milkweed plants, the population of this once common butterfly is in rapid decline. The Northern Neck Master Naturalists focused on the importance of native pollinators and the Northern Neck Master Gardeners taught attendees how to make "seed bombs," a quick and easy way to start a garden.



Nancy Garvey, VNPS, admires one of the creations of the Chesapeake Bay Garden Club.

Members of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society were on hand to provide their guide on the "Native Plants of the Northern Neck" and to explain how to recognize and eradicate invasive alien plants like English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle and autumn olive. Visitors could also purchase native plant specimens from the Native Plant Society or Miller's Greenhouses from Tappahannock, one of the partners in the Go Native—Grow Native Campaign.

Text/Photos: Janet Pawlukiewicz

Message from the President



Orontium aquaticum, goldenclub (from the Richard A. Howard Image Collection, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

Winter is upon us and the landscape looks bleak. Look closely though, and you can see the green basal foliage of many plants just waiting for spring to flourish. Indeed there are many evergreen plants we can also feast our eyes on to get us through the winter. Both kinds of plants are important to consider when you are planning your garden or landscape so that you achieve desirable “winter interest”.

There is much in the news about stormwater management and compliance with regulations in effect to reduce pollution going to our waterways. Native plants are natural choices for compliance in vegetation. But which ones, and how are they best used?



The Northern Neck Chapter will strive to introduce the connection between wetlands, rainscapes or rain gardens - commercial and residential, rain barrels and Northern Neck native plants during the next year. There will be programs to explain requirements, recommendations and recognition of wetlands and waterways. Field trips will provide the opportunity to study, observe, and learn the types of wetlands and rain gardens and relationships to their plants. Perhaps many of you will learn some new concepts and some new plants and be inspired to bring them to your home garden!

Paula Boundy

Our Missions & Purpose - a reminder...and a request

From the VNPS.org website: The Virginia Native Plant Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the native plants of Virginia and their habitats, in order to sustain for generations to come the integrity of the Commonwealth’s rich natural heritage of ecosystems and biodiversity for purposes of enjoyment, enlightenment, sustainable use, and our own very survival. To this end, we advocate and follow practices that will conserve our natural endowment, and we discourage and combat practices that will endanger or destroy it. We are committed to do all we can to slow the accelerating conversion of natural landscape to built and planted landscape and to reduce its damage to natural ecosystems.

From NNNPS.org, “our” website: The mission of the Virginia Native Plant Society is to conserve wildflowers and wild places. Also: The Go Native – Grow Native campaign seeks to inspire Northern Neck residents and businesses to use [Northern Neck] native plants in their gardens and protect native vegetation in the landscape.

From our Chapter By-Laws, our purpose is to encourage the conservation of Virginia’s native plants and to educate the public about our native plants and to encourage their preservation and cultivation.

As members we are committed to these ideals but really don’t most of us spend most of our time in our gardens because it is fun, challenging and rewarding? Many of us also spend time on stewardship at our public places, removing invasive plants or otherwise protecting our native plants and their habitat. Spreading the word on native plants is the educational component and our Chapter is fortunate to have Nancy Garvey and Jeff Wainscott who “man” our booth at various events. Our programs and field trips are another important educational effort. Currently, the Chapter needs a chair person for this endeavor! Administration is an important part of our Chapter’s success. Please consider volunteering!

Thanks, Paula

First Bloom of 2015



Mystery of Chilton Woods skunk cabbage finally solved. After looking for four or five years Jackie and Nick Ferriter found skunk cabbage blooms in January. Of course, they had to lift up some leaf litter to locate them.

Text/Photo: Nick Ferriter

Monarchs



A magnificent seven monarch caterpillars appeared this year on one of the Hagy family's butterfly weeds purchased a couple of years ago during the fall NPS plant sale. Normally, the family sees one or two monarchs on the plants. It was a surprise when seven tiny caterpillars showed up on one plant. Each day they got bigger as they devoured the plant then disappeared.

Text and Photo: Pamela D'Angelo

**Go Native--Grow Native Campaign
Receives Additional Support**

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program has provided a grant to the Northern Neck Planning District Commission to continue the Plant Northern Neck Natives: Go Native--Grow Native campaign. The Campaign will create a "Northern Neck Native Plant Library" comprised of demonstration gardens throughout the Northern Neck. Thus, the "Library" will be similar to wildlife and bird watching trails that consist of several sites linked by signage and educational information.

We will also revise and reprint the guide to Northern Neck Native Plants and produce new material on deer resistant and salt tolerant plants. In addition, we will develop outreach materials on using native plants for water quality protection projects, e.g., rain gardens and swales. Finally, we will undertake a survey to measure our success thus far and guide actions in the future.

The grant provides approximately \$15,000 to support the work and the Chapter is committed to providing an equal amount of in kind services, e.g., volunteer time.

Text: Janet Pawlukiewicz

**2014 Northern Neck's
Annual Native Plant Sale**



Photos: John Roberts



Coffee Grinds - Did You Know?

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE” This is an inspiring mantra and it is the reason I purchased an old house rather than building a new one. A tip caught my fancy recently. “Voles don’t like coffee grinds.” Apologies to whoever told me this because I cannot give you credit or tease you about it...

So I began saving my grinds for the garden and whenever I plant a new native, I surround the roots with the grinds. I have also been dumping them into vole holes I come across. Only time will tell I suppose.

From sources on-line, here are some garden related tips for using coffee grinds that I was able to find...no verification about vole deterrent.

<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/>

5. Repel Insects

Mound grounds into a ring to create a protective border around plants that will ward off ants and slugs.

6. Grow Blue Hydrangeas

Work grounds into the soil at the base of mophead hydrangeas to increase the acidity level. This helps the shrubs absorb aluminum, which you can add to the soil to keep the flowers a vibrant blue.

10. Fortify Plants

Give seedlings a nitrogen boost by stirring grounds into soil or a watering can.

<http://www.movoto.com/blog/opinions/coffee-grounds/>

You can use your old coffee grounds as mulch for plants that love acid, like roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, evergreens, camellias, and hydrangeas.

No matter how good your soil is, though, if you have snails or slugs in your garden, your flowers aren’t going to grow. So use old coffee grounds to poison—er—magically remove them from the area. You can also sprinkle coffee grounds around ant mounds to deter them.

<http://www.theprairiehomestead.com/2014/02/uses-for-coffee-grounds.html>

1. Mix them into your compost pile

The simplest way to put spent coffee grounds to good use? **Toss them in your compost pile** to give it an added boost of nitrogen. Coffee grounds are acidic, which makes them a great soil amendment for blueberries, roses, hydrangeas, and other acid-loving plants.

People love coffee and mushrooms love coffee. Who woulda thought? **Give your mushroom growing operation a boost** by mixing coffee grounds into the growing medium.

4. Give your worms a buzz

OK, not really... But worms do appreciate coffee grounds—and **they actually need gritty substances (such as coffee grounds) in their diet to aid in the digestive process.**

5. Deter the creepy-crawlies

Sprinkle coffee grounds in areas where you would like to repel ants, snails, or slugs.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/11-unusual-uses-for-coffee/>

Compost:

Spent coffee grounds can be mixed with lye to make a great composting agent, you can even throw in the coffee filter, too!

Worms in compost like to eat the bacterium that grows on the facets of coffee grounds, though the grounds themselves are a food source it also adds grit to the worms' digestive system allowing them to digest better.

Fertilizer:

Small amounts of coffee grounds can be added directly to top soil, especially on plants that like high acidity in the soil like azaleas or roses. Coffee is high in nitrogen, calcium, magnesium, potassium and other trace minerals, spreading around a thin layer of coffee grounds on your soil will allow a slow release of these minerals into your plants.

Be aware of which plants like acidic soil (roses), and which plants don't (tomatoes).

Insect Repellent:

Coffee has a very strong odor which many insects and animals do not like. In addition, it's been suggested that mosquitoes, ants, slugs and maggots all dislike the acidity of coffee and will stay away from areas where there is high concentration of acidic soil.

2015 Tentative Education and Outreach Calendar

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. Farmers' Markets (tentative)
Spring thru Summer (TBD)	10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Information tables at Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland libraries.
March 28 Saturday	8:00am - 3:00pm. <i>Northern Neck Master Gardeners' Seminar.</i> Church of the Nazarine, White Stone, VA
April 18 Saturday	8:00am - 3:00pm. <i>Earth Day.</i> Heathsville, VA
May 17 Sunday	11:00 am - 4:00 pm. <i>Go Wild Event.</i> Rappahanock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Hutchinson Tract, Tappahanock, VA
May 23, Saturday	9:00am - 3:00pm. <i>St. Stephens Strawberry Festival.</i> St. Stephens's Episcopal Church Grounds, Heathsville, VA
Sept. 5, Saturday	9:00 am - 1:00 pm. <i>NNVNS Plant Sale.</i> Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church, Wicomico, VA
Sept. (TBD)	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. <i>Boots, Bids and BQ.</i> Location TBD.
Oct. (TBD)	9:30 am - 5:00 pm. <i>Go Native-Grow Native Festival.</i> Stratford Hall, Montross, VA

Officers

President.....Paula Boundy 436-4944 paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net
 Vice President.....Gary Chafin 202-544-1664 twinoakpond@aol.com
 Secretaries:
 RecordingPam Collins 529-5286 pamelacollins32@gmail.com
 Corresponding....Bonnie Wilson 453-7036 bbwilson@kaballero.com
 TreasurerJohn Krainock 472-3051 jkrainock@usa.net

Committee Chairs

Conservation.....Vacant
 Education.....Nancy Garvey 436-8401 nangarvey@hotmail.com
Ted Munns tedmunns@kaballero.com
Jeff Wainscott
 HorticultureGary Chafin 202-544-1664 twinoakpond@aol.com
 HospitalityLee Goodman, Jane Peterson
 Membership.....John Krainock 472-3051 jkrainock@usa.net
 Newsletter.....Katherine Paris 472-3523 bayfishers3@aol.com
 Nominating.....Open
 Programs:
 Speakers.....Open
 OutingsPaula Boundy 436-4944 paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net
 GNGN.....Janet Pawlukiewicz 202-494-2270 flickerhill@earthlink.net
 PublicityJudy Lang 453-6605 jlang@riposi.net
Susan Christopher (Church liason)
 Ways & MeansNick Ferriter 453-6605 jlang@riposi.net

Other Board Members

Ex-President.....Ted Munns 453-3621 tedmunns@kaballero.com
 Members at Large.....Jeff Wainscott, 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.

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

Jan. TBD (weather permitting)	TBD. <i>Chilton Woods Work Day.</i> Leaders: Jim Kurdziel/Nick Ferriter. Pruning project to clear light for the southern twayblade orchid (<i>Listera australis</i>)
Feb. 19, Thursday	Noon. <i>Tools for Protecting Wetlands and Water Quality: The Role of Native Plants.</i> Speakers: Brian Barnes, Stuart McKenzie and Kate Daniel. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
Feb. TBD	TBD. Naked Tree walk with Rich Steensma. Belle Isle State Park (details available in early February)
March 19, Thursday	Noon. <i>Native Plants and Healthy Watersheds.</i> Speaker: Robert Wayland, former director of US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).
Late Mar./ early April	TBD. Bloodroots in Bloom walk. Location TBD.
Mid-April TBD	TBD. Virginia Bluebells in bloom and native plants in former agricultural field with Hilda and Charlie Wilson.
April 16, Thursday	Noon. <i>Bog Plants.</i> Speaker: Bill Portlock, Chesapeake Bay Foundation Senior Educator. Wicomico Parish (Episcopal) Church Hall. Bring bag lunch. (Board meeting starts at 10:00).

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. Driving directions will be emailed to members in the week before each outing and are included in publicity releases. **For more information contact Paula Boundy at 804-436-4944 or e-mail at paula.boundy@va.metrocast.net**

**Welcome to Our
Newest Members**

*Heather Bedford, Barbara Breacher,
Vickers Bryan, Helen Burroughs,
Robert & Betsy Dern, Marcia Feldman,
Ray Headley,, Henry Lane Hull,
Kyle Langford, Jan Lodge,
Tami McCauley, Bonita Russell,
Frank & Margie Stevens,
Mildred Stoner and Jan Streich
Sharon Topping & Tom Lindley*

Visit Our Chapter Website at:

<http://www.nnnps.org>

Newsletter: three issues annually.

**Send ideas, articles, photos, etc.,
by April 1st to
bayfishers3@aol.com**

Friend Us on Facebook!

Northern Neck Chapter Virginia
Native Plant Society



**Northern Neck Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 336
Reedville, VA 22539**

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