



A publication of the VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Conserving wild flowers and wild places

<http://www.vnps.org>

Oh no! Something is eating my coral honeysuckle!

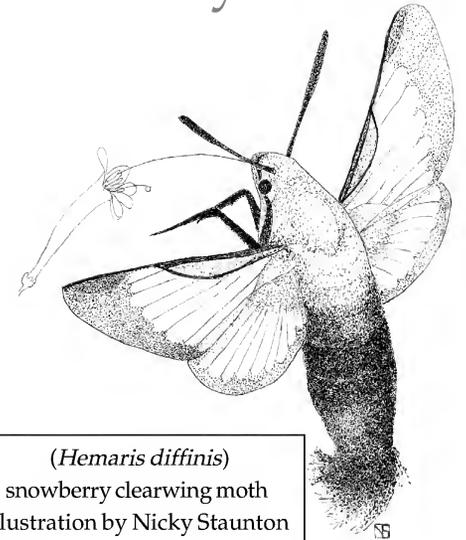
Let's imagine a situation that could happen in your own backyard. Suppose you have a healthy specimen of 2014's Virginia Native Plant Society Wildflower of the Year, coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). Suppose further that this plant rewards you every spring with a flush of flashy red flowers that you treasure all the more because they consistently bring hummingbirds to your yard. Now imagine that one fine morning you notice some little green caterpillars voraciously eating the leaves of your beloved coral honeysuckle. What do you do?

You could run to a garden center and choose from among a host of insecticides, ranging from synthetic pet-

rochemicals to the organic gardener's old standby, Bt, well known as an effective control for pesky caterpillars. Or you could opt for another "organic" option, carefully applied pressure between thumb and forefinger—but not everyone has the stomach for this approach. Or, you could do nothing and see what happens.

I don't want to suggest that there is a single correct or best answer to this scenario. But I do think each possible response reveals something about how we connect with the natural world. Some VNPS members, I'm sure, are dyed-in-the-wool plant enthusiasts, so

(See *Caterpillars*, page 4)



(*Hemaris diffinis*)
snowberry clearwing moth
Illustration by Nicky Staunton



Bald Cypress Swamp is the venue for one Annual Meeting trip.
(Courtesy Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation)

Meeting to feature fascinating speakers, fabulous field trips

Whether Annual Meeting goers are sitting in a banquet room listening to a fascinating speaker or traipsing through a natural habitat somewhere in the Virginia Beach area, the October 17-19 conference will surely be one for making memories.

For the first time in Society history, the Annual Meeting will be three full days including all day field trips on Friday. After a day outside, a buffet dinner and a program from Karen Forget, executive director for Lynnhaven River NOW in Virginia Beach, awaits the group. Forget earned an undergraduate degree in English and psychology from Purdue University and

(See *Annual Meeting*, page 3)

Annual Meeting Registration Form, Proxy Ballot Inside



From the president

Green Swamp provides amazing visit

Disappointment. I sent in my deposit for the week-long field trip to West Virginia only to learn that I was too late; it was already full. As president, I suppose I could have pulled rank and made another spot for myself, but since other members didn't have that opportunity, I decided it would not be right. And I *had* been one of the few lucky members who had participated in the fabulous two-day field trip to West Virginia last summer.

Not to despair! The hole in my calendar opened up room for a family event in Wilmington, N.C., for the weekend at the beginning of the West Virginia field trip. It would have been virtually impossible to attend both. Arriving a day early in Wilmington would allow me time to explore the area. What to do? Take a historical tour? Visit a botanical garden? Or find a Nature Conservancy site in the area? Having heard about TNC's Green Swamp Preserve, and knowing that the VNPS had a field trip there a few years ago, I knew where I wanted to go.

Typical for the South in late June, it was hot and humid the day that I set off for the swamp, an area exceeding 17,000 acres. Bright blue skies beckoned, and my car followed the navigation system instructions to a "town" called Supply, where I turned off the main highway and found the trail head five miles up a well-paved secondary road. Expecting an onslaught of ticks, mosquitoes, and biting flies, I had donned my jeans, long-sleeved T-

shirt, socks, and waterproof hiking boots that had been treated with permethrin. The empty parking lot was just a small, sandy, open area with a nearby pond, behind which I could hear the unmistakable call of a northern bobwhite. With sunhat atop my head, binoculars and fanny pack (with not one, but *two* water bottles) strapped on, and smartphone camera in hand, I set off down the sandy path. The preserve is what is termed a longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) savanna, an area with pine trees widely spread and with native grasses and wildflowers underneath. Baby pines resembled grass and the swamp was mostly dry. The sun kissed the pine needles, which emitted a sweet scent under my feet. Lovely pink (*Rhexia alifanus*) and yellow (*R. lutea*) meadow beauties were in bloom, and the most stunning orchid, tuberous grasspink orchid (*Calopogon tuberosus*), simply dazzled me. The trail narrowed as I passed luscious ripe huckleberries (*Gaylussacia frondosa*) that I quickly foraged. Yum! This was a feast for *all* of the senses.

Further on, as I was looking down, I came upon some pitcher plants right by the path. I looked up only to find myself in the midst of a huge population of them spread across the area. Wow! They were magnificent, and my little camera phone went into overdrive as pine warblers sang from the nearby trees. What a delight! Among other flowers that I spotted (and subsequently identified) were orange milkwort (*Polygala lutea*), low pinebarren milkwort (*P. ramosa*), a shrub called swamp titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), and sickle tickseed (*Coreopsis falcata*). While I didn't positively see the famed Venus flytrap or the rare red-cockaded woodpecker, I think that I scored very well on the flower front. And, as for woodpeckers, I was delighted to witness magnificent pileated woodpeckers delivering food to their offspring high in a nest in the cavity of a dead pine.

As a Facebook addict, I posted many of my plant photos soon after my visit. Some I left unlabeled, but one of my friends is Alan Weakley, co-author of the *Flora of Virginia*, who kindly identified a number of them. Alan led a class of 22 there later *that same afternoon!* If only I had known, I could have tagged along and benefited greatly from his vast knowledge. Still, it was an incredible experience to have the preserve all to myself for a few hours.

We should see some fantastic coastal plants in the Virginia Beach area in October. I hope that many of you will join us there at our Annual Meeting.

Your president, Nancy Vehrs



Plants seen on a hike at the Green Swamp include yellow pitcher plant (*Sarracenia flava*) left, and grasspink orchid (*Calopogon tuberosus* var. *tuberosus*). (Photos by Nancy Vehrs)

From Your Natural Heritage Program

Searching for Virginia's rarest plants

This past spring Nancy Vehrs invited me to consider restarting the Virginia Natural Heritage Program's regular contributions to the *Bulletin*. My response was an easy one: *Absolutely*. The Virginia Native Plant Society and the Natural Heritage Program have worked together on so many great conservation initiatives. In my early years at Natural Heritage, efforts started on the Native Plant Registry program with Nicky Staunton; Ted Scott led us into decades of work on invasive plant species; there was the recent publication of—what was that book?—right, the *Flora of Virginia*; and so much more. So with this article we resume this correspondence. Future notes will include longleaf pine restoration, rare species and field survey highlights, Natural Area Preserve features and more.

Between 1988 and 1991 Natural Heritage biologists visited 701 rare plant and animal species and significant natural community sites that have not been revisited since then.

Virginia has added 2.1 million people since 1988. A key focus of our efforts is revisiting these rapidly aging records and determining their current status. And the VNPS is a strong participant, dedicating your 2014 state fundraiser to this effort. Watch this space for the results of Natural Treasure Hunt II!

Natural Heritage information management staff, teamed with the botany and zoology experts, are working to develop maps of the most likely places for our rarest species in Virginia (species distribution models). While there is no better method than field surveys, we cannot visit every location in Virginia. The modeling effort is greatly improving the environmental review process for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (making it easier on citizens who have to consult the service) and helping us target field work and find new locations for our rarest species. We are one of a handful of Heritage Programs in the United States conducting this work, and we have teamed with New York and Florida on separate proposals for regional modeling efforts.

Natural Area protection work has slowed significantly, due to the lack of Natural Area protection funding. The 2002 Park and Natural Area Bond provided \$22 million for natural areas, and we secured some \$29.5 million in match funds,



Tom Smith, Natural Heritage director

helping to add 27 new Natural Area Preserves, 35,538 acres and, most important, to protect 169 exemplary natural communities and populations of rare plant and animal species. Yes, there is a need for new land protection funding in Virginia. We had 48 full-time staff positions back in 2002; today we have 40 staff with far more responsibilities and pressures on the resources.

Thanks to great support from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's public communications office, we just finished a new guide to Virginia's Natural Area Preserve System. Check it out here: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/napbook4web.pdf and visit a Natural Area Preserve this weekend. Thank you, VNPS members for all your efforts to conserve Virginia's biodiversity.

—Tom Smith, Natural Heritage director

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Virginia Native Plant Society
Blandy Experimental Farm
400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2
Boyce, VA 22620

(540) 837-1600
vnpsoc@shentel.net
www.vnps.org

Nancy Vehrs, President
Nancy Sorrells, Editor

Original material contained in the *Bulletin* may be reprinted, provided credit is given to VNPS and the author, if named. Readers are invited to send letters, news items, or original articles for the editor's consideration. Items should be e-mailed to Nancy Sorrells at lotswife@comcast.net. Photos should be high resolution (at least 300 dpi) jpgs or tiffs. The deadline for the next issue is October 30, 2014.

• Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

her M.A. in science education from William and Mary. She has been instrumental in pushing for water improvement on the Lynnhaven River, which drains the northern portion of Virginia Beach. Lynnhaven River NOW promotes the identification and reduction of pollution sources as well as protection and restoration of river habitat. A huge success indicator for the group is the opening of more than a third of the river to

shellfish harvesting in late 2007 after it had been closed to oyster harvesting for decades.

The speaker at Saturday evening's banquet, Chris Moore, is Virginia Senior Scientist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He has an undergraduate degree in environmental science from Randolph-Macon and leads policy development and technical support for the foundation's water quality and fishery

(See *Field trips*, page 8)

•Caterpillars

(Continued from page 1)

the motivation to protect a fine specimen of coral honeysuckle is perfectly understandable. But other people, including many VNPS members (I am also sure), have a broader perspective; they can see beyond the plant itself as a specimen and appreciate that plants have vital roles in ecological communities. This is, after all, the essence of Doug Tallamy's message: native plants host herbivorous insects, which, in turn, serve as food for other forms of wildlife. If we value orioles and tanagers, etc., we should also value native plants, not just for the beauty of the plants themselves, but for their various functions in ecological communities. Yes, the honeysuckle is being eaten, but maybe a bird will make a meal of that darned caterpillar ...

For a moment, however, let's consider that hungry caterpillar, that link between plant and bird. Every caterpillar is more than just bird food, more than one ratchetlike step up the food chain. Let's consider the biology of that particular caterpillar in its own right: little green caterpillars feeding on coral honeysuckles are likely to be the larval stages of the snowberry clearwing moths (*Hemaris diffinis*)—and these are no ordinary moths!

Snowberry clearwings belong to a genus of moths commonly known as hummingbird moths and to a family, Sphingidae, that also includes hawk moths and sphinx moths. Whereas most moths are nocturnal, these moths are active in the daylight and, like hummingbirds, they visit flowers and can be important pollinators. Further, the snowberry clearwing and some of its closest relatives mimic bumblebees; the hairy abdomen has a bumblebee-like pattern of black and yellow, and portions of their wings lack scales, rendering them transparent, like bumblebee wings. Further, these moths are swift fliers, they obviously search purposefully for flowers, and they sip nectar, so the bumblebee resemblance spans both appearance and behav-

Other mimics with native plant connections

Milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) are highly prized native plants. Not only do they sport beautiful flowers, but many species serve as larval hosts for monarchs, those beloved and colorful butterflies that, sadly, appear to be in decline. The connection between monarchs and milkweeds is well known; while consuming milkweed leaves, caterpillars assimilate but do not digest toxic cardiac glycosides; these sequestered toxins persist in adult butterflies, rendering them foul-tasting and potentially deadly to birds. Bright (aposematic) colors of monarch butterflies are a clear signal: "I'm bad, leave me alone!" Viceroy butterflies have long been thought to be mimics of monarchs, their similar (but not identical) pattern of black and orange wings sending the same message, presumably in the absence of any genuine protection. In the past, I have used the monarch–viceroy species pair as a classic example of Batesian mimicry, much like that of clearwing moths and bumblebees (see main article). But it is now known that viceroy larvae, feeding on willows (*Salix*) and poplars (*Populus*), sequester salicylic acid from their host plants, rendering the adult butterflies unpalatable to birds. So, the situation is better characterized as Muellierian (not Batesian!) mimicry, the mutual resemblance of monarchs and viceroys reinforcing for each other the same vital message to potential predators. —W. John Hayden

ior. There is, however, no stinger on the moth. And, as anyone who has watched them in action will attest, these moths working a patch of nectariferous flowers are every bit as engaging as hummingbirds.

Why mimic a bumblebee? This appears to be a straightforward case of what ecologists call Batesian mimicry, in which a harmless or edible species gains protection from predators by resembling another species that has an effective means of protection (like a stinger) or is distasteful, or toxic and thus inedible (see sidebar).

The life cycle of a snowberry clearwing moth is fairly straightforward. Females lay eggs on plants that serve as appropriate food for the caterpillars. Coral honeysuckle is not the only larval host; others include snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*), species of bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla*), *Viburnum*, hawthorn (*Crataegus*), cherry (*Prunus*), and plum (also *Prunus*). These caterpillars are green with a horn at the rear end; they look like small versions of the related hornworms found on tobacco and tomato. When the caterpillars are fully grown they drop to the ground, spin a co-

coon, and pupate amid leaf litter near the soil surface. *Hemaris diffinis* is widespread in North America, occurring throughout the range of coral honeysuckle, so finding its little green caterpillars on your coral honeysuckle is more than a remote hypothetical possibility.

So, back to the dilemma: What do you do if you find snowberry clearwing caterpillars munching on your prized coral honeysuckle? The answer, I think, depends on what you know. If that caterpillar is known to you as nothing more than an anonymous agent of destruction, the inclination to kill it is likely to prevail. But if you recognize it as a larval snowberry clearwing and have fond memories of watching these moths cavort among flowers—or can imagine that scene after reading this article—perhaps you will do nothing and let it live. The famous quotation by conservationist Baba Dioum applies: "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

—W. John Hayden, VNPS Botany Chair

Outreach and education at the *Flora* Project

The *Flora* of Virginia Project has heartily entered its next phase, and I wanted to keep you all up to date on our outreach and education efforts.

New Exhibit in Petersburg. The *Flora* Project is curator of “*Flora of Virginia*,” a two-part exhibition that opened in July at the Petersburg Public Library and closes soon, Sept. 15. Get there if you can for this double bill—triple, if you include the brand-new-and-beautiful library, and you should! The library’s main gallery is dedicated to 16 reproductions of watercolors done by Mark Catesby (1683–1749) for his *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*. Catesby, the pioneer naturalist in the New World, died more than a century before Audubon was even born. These recent reproductions were made from Catesby’s originals, which England’s King George III bought in 1768.

In the library proper are reproductions of 14 watercolors that Petersburg’s Bessie Niemeyer Marshall painted in 1937 as part of the Works Progress Administration’s all-woman effort to beautify Lee Memorial Park and document its plant life. These works, and the WPA project, are chronicled in *With Paintbrush & Shovel*, by Nancy Kober (UVA Press, 2000).

Library of Virginia Exhibition. The “*Flora of Virginia*” exhibition at the Library of Virginia closes Sept. 13, so you still have time to see it. The library’s lobby and gallery are

dedicated to this popular exhibition of how botany intersects conservation, art, mapmaking, museum work, and history. It comprises a colorful array of objects representing four centuries. Also, a panel exhibit is in production (with funding from you!), and its debut is planned for Norfolk Botanical Garden to coincide with the Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Meeting. (Keep your fingers crossed!) But if you can, you should see the full show in Richmond.

Urban Forestry Grants. The *Flora* Project has received two grants from the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program, a federal–state program of the Virginia Division of Forestry. Under one grant, Barbara Adcock, a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) teacher at Pocahontas Elementary School in Powhatan County, will teach four workshops to teachers on using her *Flora*-related lesson plans for grades K–5. Adcock created the lesson plans in the summer of 2013 under a fellowship from the Library of Virginia, basing them on the *Flora of Virginia* and materials and concepts that are the focus of the “*Flora of Virginia*” exhibition at the library. She also will be creating a suite of 10-minute Richard Louv–inspired activities, to be offered to students before they embark on the activities in the lesson plans. In these activities students will observe nature with their senses and not have to give their teacher anything in return, not even a haiku! The point

is to make sure children have experiences something like we had as children that gave us an emotional connection to nature, which an SOL test cannot do, something we’re calling “*Louving Nature*.”

The other grant will boost our public relations and outreach, allowing the purchase of Adobe Creative Suite software, creation of window-shade exhibit panels for the Project, and completion in watercolor of 10 *Flora* illustrations by their artist, Lara Call Gastinger.

New Director. After 13 years as executive director of the *Flora* Project, *Flora* co-author Chris Ludwig stepped down in July, and I became our new director. It’s a great feeling to be with an organization that has such a worthwhile future dedicated to helping people use the *Flora* and get further involved with Virginia’s plants, communities, and conservation. I have been with the Project since 2007 and associate director since 2009. I also edited the *Flora* and set out the original work plan for our *Flora* App, which you all supported and which is being advanced now by a cracker-jack committee. Chris remains president of the *Flora* Project’s board and is active in App development.

Do get in touch with me (bland.crowder@dcr.virginia.gov or 804-371-5561) if you have questions about the *Flora*, the App, or the *Flora* Project. See you at the Beach!

—Bland Crowder, executive director,
Flora of Virginia Project

Zimmerman films meadowscape project

Native plant enthusiasts across the country have been thrilled by Catherine Zimmerman’s past projects: the book and companion video *Urban & Suburban Meadows, Bringing Meadowscape to Big and Small Spaces*. The book and video enlighten all as to the importance of abandoning the lawn in favor of the more diverse habitat of a meadowscape and then offers practical advice for those who want to turn their space into a meadowscape.

Now Zimmerman has joined forces with native plant expert and entomologist Doug Tallamy and the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council to produce a 90-minute environmental and educational documentary, *Hometown Habitat*. The film will

(See *Meadowscape*, page 6)



Filming *Hometown Habitat* has taken Zimmerman and her crew across the nation. (Photo courtesy www.themeadowproject.com)

Rename the Bulletin Contest

Your help is needed in refocusing newsletter

In January, the Virginia Native Plant Society will publish the first issue of its retooled newsletter. What will it be called?

First, it will be a two-color quarterly, possibly stapled, and make the shift, as has been the membership's wish for some time, to providing more information on the science of Virginia's native plants. It won't try to be a scientific journal, but it will offer more articles about botanical and ecological research, monitoring, restoration, and findings in Virginia (and, of course, the invasive nonnatives and other threats that Virginia native habitats face), in addition to information about the VNPS.

Because there will now be four rather than five issues a year, direct mailings will likely be meatier, and one is likely to point up what we can expect from the General Assembly and other lawmaking or regulatory groups that affect our native plants and ecological communities.

Our website lets us get information almost instantly to members who use the internet. Using a newsletter to disseminate time-stamped information is, by comparison, almost impossible. By definition, then, the *Bulletin* is no longer a bulletin. So it needs a new name, one that communicates something about what the VNPS does. *Bulletin* is dated, carries no "branding" weight, and doesn't appeal to young botanists and plant aficionados, whom we very much need to attract.

To that end, we are holding a contest to solicit suggestions for a new title. The winning title will be

unveiled when you receive your first issue bearing the new name in January. The title should be one, two, or three words, and it should leave a strong image. *Deadline*: October 20; email entries to Bland Crowder at bland.crowder@dcr.virginia.gov.

The prize will be your choice of an original line illustration done by Lara Call Gastinger for the *Flora of Virginia*. (All originals are not available, and Lara did not illustrate the ferns, the lycophytes, or the graminoids.)

Retaining *Bulletin* as the title is not an option. It communicates nothing about the VNPS's mission, and it no longer describes what the newsletter is. It is not how we get urgent information to members.

Here are some suggestions already received: *Virginia Heartleaf*. *Platanthera*. *The Meristem*. *Virginia Evergreen*. *The Spathe*. *Virginica*. *Mertensia*. *The Rachis*. *The Umbel*.

And about the website: members who get their newsletter online receive added value, such as full-color photographs (prohibitively expensive for the print newsletter) and extra photos, and they see it first! They also help cut costs of printing the hard copy. From now on the newsletter will be published first on the website, *members only*. Then, only after the print version has been received, the online copy will be made available to nonmembers.

So suggest a title. Suggest many titles. And get ready for a terrific new publication!

—Bland Crowder, VNPS Publications Chair

• Meadowscape

(Continued from page 5)

focus "on showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems," according to Zimmerman (www.themeadowproject.com). Tallamy's insights on misuse of non-native plants in landscaping provides the theme for the film. The documentary's message can be summed up as follows: "We can change the notion that humans are here and nature is someplace else. It doesn't have to, and shouldn't be that way." Each individual has the power to conserve resources, restore habitat

for wildlife and bring beauty to their patch of earth."

Producing the film has taken Zimmerman on a nearly 3,000-mile journey during which she filmed people she is calling Habitat Heroes. Carter Steadman, 9, is one of those heroes. "He introduced me to the ways of monarchs as he released a female he raised, named Journey. I showed Carter how great a monarch chrysalis looks close up on video. Beautiful and pretty cool!" said Zimmerman.

Carter explained: "Ever since I learned about the monarch problems in second grade, I thought, how hard can it be to raise just one monarch

and set it free? And maybe you could even do a whole group and set them all free in the wild, *at once!* So that's what I'm doing." This season Carter will release over 50 monarchs!

Zimmerman is excited about the work that this film can do in changing people's outlook on the natural world. "This film project that will educate and inspire, as we tell the stories of Habitat Heroes across the country, who are changing the culture of lawn based thinking to a culture that returns us to being in sync with the natural world."

Read more about *Hometown Habitat*, featuring Doug Tallamy, and at www.themeadowproject.com.

Virginia Native Plant Society Slate of Candidates

The following slate of candidates is proposed by the 2014 VNPS Nominating Committee to replace officers, standing committee chairs, directors-at-large, and members-at-large of the Nominating Committee, and to fill vacancies in other classes. One open seat still needs to be filled by an enthusiastic volunteer. Please consider giving of your time and talents for the special plants and habitats in our commonwealth.

Treasurer, Cathy Mayes, 2017. Cathy is secretary of the American Chestnut Foundation and a past president of its Virginia Chapter; treasurer of the Virginia Native Plant Society and its Piedmont Chapter; a past president of Old Rag Master Naturalists; and a volunteer with the Virginia Working Landscapes Project.

Conservation Chair, Marcia Mabee Bell, 2017. Marcia has been a member of the VNPS since 2007. She joined after she and her husband, Timothy Bell, placed their Nelson County property, Naked Mountain, under a conservation easement with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Naked Mountain became the first natural area preserve in Nelson County and the 49th in Virginia. Marcia is writing a memoir, to be titled *Naked Mountain*, about buying property that, through a process of discovery, awakened in her strong conservation values. Marcia is a retired lobbyist who represented nonprofit public-health organizations in Washington for 25 years. Last year, as VNPS Conservation Chair, she devised and implemented an advocacy strategy for increasing the Division of Natural Heritage budget in the 2014–2016 budget cycle.

Education Chair, Emily Ford, 2017. Emily works at Blandy Experimental Farm and the State Arboretum of Virginia as the lead environmental educator of the Pre-K–12 education programs. In this role, she develops and teaches outdoor-based science lessons, emphasizing inquiry and observations while incorporating state and national standards of learning. Many of the lessons she develops include hands-on activities utilizing the Arboretum’s Native Plant Trail, such as native versus nonnative diversity studies and observations on forest layer composition. Emily holds a master of science in science education from Montana State University and a B.S. in biology from George Mason University. An avid student of all things native, she hopes to assist the VNPS in expanding its outreach and education by coordinating with chapter members, formal and nonformal educators, and other experts to develop engaging, hands-on activities.

Fund Raising, Vacant.

Horticulture Chair, John Magee, 2017. John has been designing and building landscapes in the Washington metropolitan area for the past 20 years. After receiving his degree in horticulture from the Ohio State University and spending a few years training and showing horses, he settled into the industry as the general foreman of Pennsylvania’s highest award-winning firm. While in Pennsylvania, he became a volunteer at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and not only did he meet his wife there, but he was also introduced to habitat gardening and the use of native plants in the landscape. He now operates his own design firm (Magee Design) in the beautiful countryside of Middleburg. He specializes in the use of native plants but is also known for his work with stone and water. These earthy elements combine to create a natural landscape that enhances not only the home of the landscape, but also the surrounding area.

Membership, Roxanne Paul, 2015. Roxanne is a former national park ranger who also worked for 13 years for the National Wildlife Federation in its Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. She has a strong interest in native

plants and their value to wildlife, as well as the environmental benefits of using native plants in backyards and schoolyards. She holds a bachelor of science degree in natural resources from Cornell University. Roxanne regrets that she will miss this year’s Annual Meeting, due to her niece’s wedding in Minnesota.

Registry Co-chair, Rod Simmons, 2017. Rod is a plant ecologist with a background in biology and geology who has extensively surveyed the flora and natural communities of the Mid-Atlantic region, especially the inner Coastal Plain and Piedmont of the Washington area. He is a research collaborator with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates, and he works closely with the Virginia and Maryland natural heritage programs. He is a member and a past president of the Botanical Society of Washington and serves on the boards of the Maryland and Virginia native plant societies for which he regularly leads field trips. He is a natural resource specialist and plant ecologist for the city of Alexandria.

Registry Co-chair, Charles Smith, 2017. Charles has been a natural resource management professional for the past 22 years, working for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority for 5 years and for Fairfax County for the past 17. Until recently he was manager of the Natural Resource Management and Protection Branch of the Fairfax County Park Authority. He now works for Fairfax County Stormwater, focusing on stream restoration and developing restoration standards for terrestrial ecosystems. Charles is education and conservation chair for the Prince William Wildflower Society, is a past president of that chapter, and formerly served on the VNPS state board as Membership Chair. Charles is also a member of the Prince William Conservation Alliance and Friends of the Potomac River Refuges and is an instructor for three chapters of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

Member-at-Large, Kathi Mestayer, 2017. Kathi has been an active VNPS board member and a member of the John Clayton Chapter for several years. If elected, this will be her third term as a VNPS Board Member-at-Large. Her activities and interests include the distribution and promotion of Doug Tallamy’s writings and presentations on the importance of native plants in habitat preservation, creation and enhancement; involving students and the public in understanding the problems associated with invasive nonnative plants; and promoting the use of natives in landscaping. She is a regular contributor of “Notes from Left Field,” essays published in the *Claytonia* newsletter of the Clayton Chapter, and an active Virginia master naturalist.

Member-at-Large, Shirley Wilson Gay, 2017. Passionate about preservation and education, Shirley has served on the VNPS Board of Directors for more than 10 years. As Education Chair, she planned and coordinated numerous workshops and field trips. She believes that Virginia’s rich and diverse natural history is best appreciated by visiting special places with experts in the field. Thus she plans to continue to focus on field trips. A retired high school mathematics teacher, Shirley served many years as program chair for the Potowmack Chapter and is a master naturalist.

Save time & postage: E-mail your vote to:
vnpsofc@shentel.net

PROXY, 2014 VNPS ANNUAL MEETING

I hereby authorize the Corresponding Secretary to cast my vote for the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee

Signed _____

Address _____

Return by Oct. 10 to:

Blandy Experimental Farm
400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2
Boyce, VA 22620

Save time & postage: E-mail your vote to:
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Boyce, VA 22620

•Field trips

(Continued from page 3)

restoration efforts. Moore is astute at relating land events to water quality. He has led the oyster restoration program in an effort to increase the number of filter feeders in the Bay.

Two tours that might be of special interest to Virginia Beach visitors are First Landing State Park and False Cape State Park. First Landing marks the site of the first landfall for the 1607 Jamestown colonists. The park was developed as a CCC project between 1933 and 1940 primarily by an African-American team. It is Virginia's most visited state park. Its lush bald cypress, freshwater lagoons, and a maritime forest ecology give it the distinction of being the northernmost location on the East Coast where subtropical and temperate plants grow and thrive together. In addition to plants, you could see osprey, egrets, herons and pelicans.

False Cape is likely the least visited state park, although, at 4,321 acres including nearly six miles of sandy beaches, as well as maritime

forest, wetlands and marsh, it is a very large park. It lies between Currituck Sound and the Atlantic Ocean and offers limited vehicle access. It is home to loblolly pines, red maples, sweet gum, live oaks and Spanish moss.

For a complete schedule for the Annual Meeting as well as a list of the 21 field trips, look at the registration insert in this newsletter. Register soon to get the field trip of your choice.



False Cape State Park offers many fascinating habitats. (Courtesy Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation)

Green Swamp Photo Album

