Coming Soon!

**Native Plant SALE**

Saturday, September 13, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

*On the Front Lawn of the*

Wicomico Parish Church (Episcopal) Thrift Shop
on Route 200, Wicomico Church

Our expert plant identifiers and native plant gardeners will be on hand to help answer your questions!

Mark your calendar, bring a friend or a plant to identify, and join us in Wicomico Church for this annual event— but please wait until 9:00 a.m. No early sales.

*Did you ever wonder where we acquire the plants we sell?*

Many come from the private gardens of members and friends who kindly donate their spare plants.

The donated plants are potted up and nurtured during the hot summer months to ready for sale.

Hilda Wilson’s celandine wood poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) before (left) and after (right) collection for the 2008 plant sale.

~Carol Hammer (photos)
Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

Message from the President

As summer slips away, thoughts turn to our annual fund raiser, the Plant Sale, as well as interesting upcoming walks and planned fall programs. Thanks to all of you who have nursed plants through the heat to provide for our sale. Please bring them to Wicomico Church on the morning of September 12. All members–do please tell your friends and neighbors that we will welcome them from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 13, in front of the Wicomico Parish Church Thrift Shop.

Our selection this year of native trees, shrubs, ferns, and perennial flowers includes many old favorites like *Callicarpa americana* (American beautyberry), *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush) and *Rhudbeckia triloba* (brown-eyed Susan). New entries include *Veronicastrum virginicum* (Culver’s root–as in the Old Courthouse Demonstration Garden!). Enticing photos of some of these plants that were all contributed by our members are featured elsewhere in this issue.

Tom Teeples will be our first speaker at noon on Thursday, September 18. Tom will tell us all about wild mushrooms and will follow that with a mushroom walk on Sat. Oct. 11th at Bush Mill Stream Wildlife Preserve. Our annual meeting, with election of new officers, will be held on October 16. The board will provide a “pot luck lunch” and members may discuss gardens they have visited from their own back yard to those on the other side of the world. We are currently working on a program for November.

Please find the schedule of our field outings for the Fall listed in this newsletter.

Through the Spring and Summer we had many interesting field trips starting with Dragon Run kayaking with Teta—all were very much of interest. Thank you Sally!

We cannot function as an organization without help from our members, so please consider volunteering for one of the Chapter jobs. As the year moves on, more vacancies will need to be filled. In addition to our local chapter, the Virginia Native Plant Society has positions to fill—the state particularly needs a Treasurer.

This will be my last letter to you as President of the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. I can’t begin to thank everyone who has made the last two years fly by. However, I must thank our founder, Ann Messick, Judy, Earline, Carol, and Jackie as I wouldn’t have survived without them. I hope that you have enjoyed the time and will continue to “go native” in the future.

~Nick Ferriter, August 2008

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Candleberry Shrubs at the Old Courthouse Demonstration Garden

Ed’s note: Like most of us, Paula notices which plants are in bloom whenever she visits our native plant garden. Last July, noting that: “Bountiful berries have set on the candleberries...” she was inspired to write the following:

One of the feature plantings at Heathsville is the border of Candleberry shrubs. There is a mix of bayberry and wax myrtle, both sharing this common name. Both species are dioecious like hollies (*Ilex* spp.), *i.e.*, different plants are either male or female, with the females bearing berries after fertilization.

A table comparing/contrasting bayberry and wax myrtle follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Northern Bayberry* Morella (Myrica) pensylvanica</th>
<th>Wax Myrtle or Southern Bayberry* Morella (Myrica) cerifera</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Usual height</td>
<td>3 – 12, usually 9 feet; long lived</td>
<td>15 – 20, usually 10 feet; long lived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spacing</td>
<td>6 feet</td>
<td>10 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Part sun, part shade</td>
<td>Part to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>Insignificant, yellow, summer</td>
<td>Insignificant, white, spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>Bluish white; fall and winter</td>
<td>Pale blue, waxy; fall and winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaves</td>
<td>Alternate, mostly simple, egg shaped; may retain green/tan over winter; 1-2.5 inches long; glossy dark gray-green; yellow resin dots on lower surface only; aromatic</td>
<td>Alternate, mostly simple, narrow elongated; evergreen if temp. above 0 degrees; 1-4 inches long; light olive-green; yellow to orange resin dots on both surfaces; aromatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunk</td>
<td>Multitrunked; thin smooth gray-brown bark</td>
<td>Multitrunked; up to 10 inches diam.; pale gray, smooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones</td>
<td>6 – 8; mid Atlantic outer coastal, NE U.S.</td>
<td>7 – 9; indigenous to coastal plain, SE U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil and Moisture</td>
<td>Acid to neutral, clay, loam or sand. Wet to dry; prefers moist but has high drought tolerance; tolerates some salt spray. Low fertility</td>
<td>Acid to neutral, sandy, deep. Wet to dry; prefers wetter; tolerates some salt spray. Low fertility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Use</td>
<td>Larval host – Columbia Silkmoth; Berries – birds. Low browse, good cover</td>
<td>Larval host – red and red-banded hairstreak butterflies. Berries – birds. Low browse, good cover</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One might conclude that these plants are difficult to distinguish. So there is your challenge while visiting the garden.


~Paula Boundy, Horticulture Chair
Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

Samples of Native Plants for SALE in 2008

Left to right from upper left:
American beautyberry (Callicarpa americana), Ann Messick photo
Maryland golden aster (Chrysopsis mariana), Marie Minor photo
crimsoneyed rosemallow (Hibiscus moscheutos)
bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis)
coneflowers (Rudbeckia spp.)
sensitive fern (Onoclea sensibilis)
seashore mallow (Kosletskya virginica)
viburnum (Viburnum spp.)
cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis)
dwarf crested Iris (Iris cristata), Marie Minor photo

All photos by Carol Hammer unless otherwise noted.
Part One
The NN Chapter often visits Chilton Woods in late spring in search of showy orichs (Gelearis spectabilis) in bloom, but this year we returned on a horribly hot and humid morning in late July. Nick Ferriter led six NN native plant enthusiasts (Peggy Federhart, Jackie Ferriter, Carol Hammer, Judy Lang, Tom Teeples, and Earline Walker) on a two-hour trek through a grove of pawpaws (Asimina triloba), a thicket of devil’s walking sticks (Aralia spinosa), tons of poison ivy (Toxicodendron radicans), muddy stream bottoms, up and down hills, over and under trees—all without a marked trail. Although we never located the elusive plant (thought to be an orchid) for which Nick was looking, Tom discovered a large clump of yellow fringe orchids (Platanthera ciliaris, left). We also identified several other interesting natives such as the rattlesnake plantain. Thanks to Nick and his GPS for the unusual and productive outing!

~Carol Hammer, text & photo

Part Two
Ann Messick had missed the hot and humid walk, but with characteristic enthusiasm, desired mightily to see and photo P. ciliaris which doesn’t bloom every year. Fortunately the clump was fairly close to the entry. In a labor of love, Earline and Nick returned on a second, scalding, steamy morning to clear a path that she could navigate. The following week-end they gave Ann and her daughter Laurie a personal tour of the site, allowing Ann (right) to photograph some elusive, yellow fringe orchids (left).

~Judy Lang

Wow! The color, the texture, the diversity was inspiring! No one was discouraged by rain during Hilda Wilson’s tour of her shade garden along a ravine to a small marshy area emptying into Nomini Creek in Westmoreland County.

Fern fiddleheads (above left) glistened in the shower as many continued walking with umbrellas. After lunch, Hilda (above right, facing camera) graciously allowed us to propagate for our September native plant sale some of her celandine wood poppy (Stylophorum diphyllum) and Allegheny spurge (Pachysandra procumbens).

Many thanks to our knowledgeable host and hostess, to Sallie Caskie for her arrangements, and my fellow visitors who withstood the weather to enjoy native plants in a beautiful, Northern Neck setting.

Paula Boundy (text), Carol Hammer (photos)
Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

**Betula nigra (Family Betulaceae), the Riveting River Birch**

**Basic Statistics**
- Zone 4-8
- Height 40-80 ft
- Full Sun
- Indigenous to the Northern Neck of Virginia
- Space 80 ft as specimen or 30 ft for grove
- Wet-moist; acidic (ph 4-6), rich, medium-heavy soil at least 20 inches deep

River birch is the most southern, and only, birch native to the coastal plain in the SE United States. A wetland indicator plant rather than a forest species, it grows well when planted in seeps or low areas along the banks of waterways. Inconspicuous, yellow-green blooms appear in mid spring; by summer seeds are held in brown catkins. Foliage in summer provides a very light shade and leaves are pale yellow by fall. During dry weather, the tree may drop some leaves and twigs.

River birch is noted for its beautiful bark: smooth on young trees, with age, it peels off horizontally in shaggy pieces (right) revealing cream, peachy and rust colors. The tree’s structure and ornamental bark create considerable winter interest.

Considered a single stem tree; river birches often split low into 2-3 trunks with a girth of 1-3 ft. It grows rapidly to 35 ft in height in 20 years, and continues growing through 50 years. Afterwards, there is a slow decline, and they rarely achieve 100 years in age.

River birch makes a fine specimen if located a sufficient distance from buildings and parking lots or driveways (right). The shallow, fibrous, water-seeking root system may discourage gardening beneath the crown, but a grove of river birches is effective in a landscape of sufficient size and moisture. Other trees that grow near river birch include bald cypress, sweetgum and swamp chestnut oak. Its bloom and foliage attract insects. Birds, especially goldfinches, eat the seeds. Deer browse new growth, and the wood can be used for pulp or fuel. The NN Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society is pleased to offer some for sale on September 13th.

**References**
- www.plants.usda.gov
- www.davesgarden.com

~Paula Boundy

**Officers**
- President........ Nick Ferriter  (804) 462-6242  ferriter@aol.com
- Vice President..... Earline Walker
- Secretaries:
  - Recording........ Pam Collins
  - Corresponding OPEN
- Treasurer........ Judy Burgess

**Committee Chairs**
- Conservation......... Paula Boundy
- Education........... Judy Lang  (804) 453-6605  jlang@riposi.net
- Horticulture......... Paula Boundy
- Membership.......... Tom Ryals
- Newsletter........... Carol Hammer  (804) 453-5500  caroljhammer@aol.com
- Nominating.......... Jane Peterson
- Programs............. Earline Walker (speakers)
- Publicity............. Judy Lang (temporary)
- Ways & Means....... OPEN

**Membership Fees**
- Individual: $30
- Family: $40
- Secondary: $5 (goes to other chapters)

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.

See upper right hand corner of address label for renewal date, and please advise us if our records are incorrect.

All but $5.00 of any membership is tax deductible.

Help us keep in touch with you!

Whenever your email address, phone number or postal address changes, please tell us so we can update our membership files.
### Northern Neck Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

#### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 4, Thur.</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Rita Johnson’s Dock–Kayak to see native plants in Bush Mill Stream with Master Naturalist Earline Walker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 13, Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Wicomico Parish Church–NN Chapter’s annual Plant Sale (set-up on morning of Sept. 12).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 18, Thur.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Noon.</strong></td>
<td>Wicomico Parish Church–Master Naturalist Tom Teeple’s Wild Mushrooms talk at the General Meeting. Bring lunch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 25, Thur.</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Belle Isle State Park–new Native Plant Garden with Paula Boundy,NN Chapter’s Horticulture Chair and Master Naturalist. Bring a picnic lunch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 27, Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 a.m.-1 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Welford Tract, Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge–Aubudon’s TogetherGreen native hardwood reforestation event. For info, contact: Jan Tyndall at <a href="mailto:tyndalljanis@aol.com">tyndalljanis@aol.com</a> or (804) 435-3225.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oct. 2, Thur.</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Sabine Hall, Warsaw–Fall Native Plants + Regrowth of Clearcut and Power Line Easement walk with Paula Boundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oct. 11, Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Bush Mill Stream Wildlife Preserve–Fall Mushroom Walk with Tom Teeple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oct. 16, Thur.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Noon.</strong></td>
<td>Wicomico Parish Church–Annual General Meeting: Election of officers, Gardens Galore + Lunch c/o the Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oct. 25, Sat.</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nov. 20, Thur.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Noon.</strong></td>
<td>Wicomico Parish Church–General Meeting. Bring lunch. Talk TBA.</td>
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**Plus**

Marie Minor will lead Botanical Walks at the **Wilna** Tract of the Rappahannock River Valley NWR on:
- Wed., Sept. 3 @ 9 a.m.
- Wed., Sept. 24 @ 9 a.m.
- Wed., Oct. 8 @ 10 a.m.
- Wed., Oct. 22 @ 10 a.m.

and at the **Laurel Grove** Tract of the Rappahannock River Valley NWR on:
- Wed., Sept. 10 @ 9 a.m.
- Wed., Sept. 17 @ 9 a.m.

Driving directions for all field outings will be emailed to members in the week preceding each outing.

For more information, or driving directions if you lack email, contact Sally Caskie at: caskie@rivnet.net or (804) 472-5128.

**expect more!**

Additional outings will be announced to members via email.

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Northern Neck Chapter  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 233  
Mollusk, VA 22517

Note expiration date and please renew as needed if record is correct.