

Symposium Summary

The Virginia Natural History Society's symposium entitled "Historical Explorations into Virginia's Natural History", which was held on September 26, 2009, was a big success! The new Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville provided the perfect venue for the 60 people who attended the symposium. Talks began at 8:30 AM and ended twelve hours later with our sadly deceased co-founder, Dr. Richard Hoffman's keynote address, "Nature, Natural History, and Naturalists in Virginia Since 1927, a Personal Evaluation." Talks ranged from Thomas Jefferson's contributions to recently discovered mussel biology to botanical work done nearly 400 years ago. This symposium brought together people from across the state who share a passion for natural history where ideas and information could be shared face to face. This issue of *Banisteria* includes six articles made by the 13 presenters at the symposium. In addition, a paper on the history of wildlife management in Virginia was prepared after the symposium and is included as part of the proceedings. A presentation was made by Donna Ware at the symposium on the history of botany in Virginia and an expanded history was coauthored with Nancy Ross Hugo in the new *Flora of Virginia*.

Thanks to all of the people who helped organize the symposium:

Program Committee Members: Richard Hoffman, Barry Knisley, Michael Kosztarab, Joe Mitchell, Steve Roble, and John White.

Sponsors: Virginia Museum of Natural History, Virginia Native Plant Society, Virginia Herpetological Society, and Virginia Academy of Science.

The Society also thanks Beckie Smith and Bill Shear who took care of the mail-in registrations; Carolyn Seay of the Virginia Museum of Natural History; Lynn Pritchett, a Master Naturalist volunteer, who was in charge of the registration table during the event; and Dutch Inn who catered the symposium.

Presentations (* = published in symposium proceedings):

*Abraham, B. J. Hampton University. Araneology in Virginia.

Henika, W. S. Virginia Tech. Anna Isabel Jonas: Pioneer in Petrotectonics.

Hilton, E. Virginia Institute of Marine Science. History of Marine Ichthyology in Virginia.

Jones, J. Virginia Tech. Natural History and Conservation of Freshwater Mussels in Virginia.

*Hoffman, R. Virginia Museum of Natural History. Nature, Natural History, and Naturalists in Virginia Since 1927, a Personal Evaluation.

Kosztarab, M. Virginia Tech. Studies on the Terrestrial Insects of Virginia.

*Mitchell, J. Mitchell Ecological Research Service. Emmett R. Dunn and the Origin of Virginia Herpetology.

*Rose, B. Old Dominion University. The Mammals.

*Stanton, L. Shannon Senior Historian Monticello. Thomas Jefferson, Naturalist.

Ward, L. W. Virginia Museum of Natural History. Virginia's First Fossil Collections; the Earliest Known from North America.

Ware, D. College of William and Mary Herbarium. Plant Exploration and Herbarium-building in Virginia, 1900 to the Present.

*Winston, J. W. Virginia Museum of Natural History. History of the Study of Marine and Estuarine Biology in Virginia.

Yemm, T. American Lives: History Brought to Life™. Death of the Dilettante: The Evolution of Botanical Study in the First Three Hundred Years of Virginia's Settlement by Europeans.

Tom McAvoy, Program Coordinator



Program coordinator Tom McAvoy (far left) and symposium speakers (left to right) Lauck Ward, Judy Winston, William Henika, Bob Rose, Richard Hoffman, Jess Jones, Michael Kosztarab, Barb Abraham, Terry Yemm, Cinder Stanton, Eric Hilton, Donna Ware, and Joe Mitchell.