

Introduction of Clara Aus, Guest Speaker (ZOOM)
Northern Neck Master Gardeners – June 18, 2025 Meeting, at 11:00 A.M.

Thank you all for attending today's continuing education program, which will be a Zoom presentation by Clara Aus, who is a lepidopterist and educator at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond.

Clara joined Lewis Ginter in 2022 as a Butterfly Educator, worked as a Social Media Intern in the Marketing Department, and in 2023 assumed the role of Coordinator in the Garden's Butterflies LIVE! Exhibit in its Conservancy. We are looking forward to the return of the Exhibit following the Garden's expansion of its Conservatory, which will include a permanent butterfly house when completed.

Clara is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, where she majored in biology and entomology. She loves educating the public about insects, especially butterflies, and hopes to strengthen engagement with the community about how we can help native pollinators in Virginia. In her spare time, she collects and preserves insects for display. Today she possesses a collection of over 200 unique insects, about 100 of which are butterflies, both tropical and native species.

Clara's presentation today is based on her class that she gave earlier this year at Lewis Ginter on "Spring Planting for Pollinators". Native plants are a vital part of her teachings, and she has recognized the work of Doug Tallamy in promoting native plants.

I hope you will visit the Garden's website, (<https://www.lewisginter.org/>), where you can access Clara's publications on pollinators, including "[Tips for Planting a Native Butterfly Garden](#)", which includes photographs and information of over 30 butterflies, and "[8 Tips to Help Native Butterflies Thrive](#)". Clara also has a very entertaining [Facebook page](#) that I hope you will also visit.

Clara, thank you so much for your presentation to the Northern Neck Master Gardeners!

(Henry Riely, NNMG volunteer)