



*THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY*

October, 2015



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday October 1, 2015**

**at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
in the Lab**

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

This month's topic will be

The Virginia Native Plant Marketing Partnership

by Carol Heiser from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

How do you leverage limited resources to protect and preserve the native plants of Virginia? In her role as Wildlife Habitat Coordinator for DGIF, Heiser has been front and center on the agency's efforts to enhance wildlife habitat by encouraging corporate landowners, private landowners, schools and homeowners to improve environments in their communities to benefit Virginia's songbirds, mammals, amphibians and other wildlife. The programs include the Corporate Habitat Program, the Habitat at Home Program and Schoolyard Habitat Program. Heiser also serves on the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council.

Chapter Events:

Privet Removal work days at Lewis Ginter:

Oct. 13 Tues 9AM to 12, leader Dabney Robinson db.robinson@comcast.net

Oct. 20 Tues 9AM to 12, leader Beth Farmer BETH16085@HOTMAIL.COM

Nov. 8 Sun 9AM to 12, leader Caroline Meehan

Nov. 16 Mon 9AM to 12, leader Beth Farmer, Caroline assist.

Dec. 5 Sat 9AM to 12, leader Caroline Meehan

Dec. 15 Tues 9AM to 12, leader Beth Farmer, Caroline assist.

Meet at Admission Hall, dress for the weather and bring your favorite small tools, hat, gloves etc. Please notify host in advance that you will come to help. Many thanks in advance for your assistance, see you in the Garden!

Any questions please contact Beth Farmer beth16085@hotmail.com or Caroline Meehan at cjrtmeehan@juno.com

Field Trip: The monthly Sunday Stroll at Dorey, hosted by the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, will take place October 11 at 4 p.m. at Dorey Park in eastern Henrico County

(<http://henrico.us/rec/places/dorey/>). Come look for late fall flowers and grasses, plus fruits and lovely fall color.

Contact Leslie Allanson at leleorr4@gmail.com or 804-248-1578 to register and get details on where to meet.

Anyone with an interest in our native landscape is welcome, from novice to expert.

Announcements:

Election of new Officers: The board has nominated the following officers for 2016. We will vote at the October meeting. President - Leslie Allanson, Vice President - Open (nominations will be accepted at the October meeting), Secretary - Irene Caperton, Treasurer - Richard Moss

Additional leadership includes: Past President - Catharine Tucker, Membership (meet/greet/follow-up) - Rubyjane Robertson, Newsletter - Richard Moss, Publicity and chapter representative - Suzanne Jenkins, Website - Beth Farmer and Richard Moss, Field Trips - Robert Wright.

Presidents Message:

It's a hard-hat year in my yard. The hickory nuts are falling from 40-80 feet up in a tall tree (*Carya alba*) about 20 feet from the kitchen door. They land on the awning with a loud "thwack!" and on the ground with a resounding thud. Just filling the bird bath is an exercise in dodging bullets.

"Can you eat these?" asked a recent visitor. Oh, boy, can you, if you're willing to spend time cracking the hard shells or have teeth like a squirrel. Heavy crops of hickory and beech nuts, beautyberries, mushrooms, holly berries, sassafras and spicebush berries will all reduce my need to buy seeds to feed my winter birds until much later this year. The few pawpaws that managed to develop fruit have long since been scooped up by squirrels and deer. Then there are the pokeberries & devil's walking-stick berries! Birds are going crazy today!

All the native wildlife foods around "Aisle of View" mean my gardening activities consist mostly of cutting some things back and pulling others up. This time of year, I start cutting back much of the summer's growth on shrubs & young trees to keep paths & driveway clear. Sorting out the native plants, then pulling up stilt grass, beefsteak plant and errant butterfly-bush seedlings gives me exercise. Each spring I buy a few annuals like coleus and impatiens which provide color in my hanging baskets and don't threaten to invade the woods. The reds and magentas attract hummingbirds to the feeders that hang on the basket edges.

To help spread the native annuals next year, I save seeds, but they are not enough. Buying more plants is like buying more work to do, but the opportunity to increase the variety of shade-tolerant and insect-attracting species is hard to resist. I try to encourage others to consider doing this, too, in order to help spread awareness of the importance of planting native species of flowers, shrubs and trees. But I frequently hear, "What plants do I buy, and where do I find them?" I have some answers for this area, but folks need more information.

The Virginia Native Plants Marketing Partnership is developing programs to answer these questions on a statewide basis. This Partnership and its programs are Carol Heiser's topic for our meeting on October 1. Please come and hear about how marketing native plants can support the mission of the Virginia Native Plant Society to protect native plants and their habitat.



The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

serves the counties of: Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond. It meets the first Thursday of September through April at 7:00 PM in the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, unless otherwise stated.

Chapter Officers

President..... Catharine Tucker
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Vice President.....Leslie Allanson
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Secretary.....Irene Caperton
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Chapter Website

pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Come at 6:30 pm to meet and greet our new members. After Carol's program, stay to participate in the election of new officers and share plans for coming months. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Catharine White Tucker

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, September 3, 2015

Welcome: The meeting room was packed with more than 40 persons when Chapter President, Catharine Tucker, called the meeting to order. The new program year was off to an enthusiastic start.

Program: Vice President, Leslie Allanson, introduced the evening's speaker, Jim Fowler, who presented an outstanding program, *The Flora of the Green Swamp*. The Green Swamp is accessible to the public and is located by traveling north of Supply, North Carolina, via Highway 211. The Green Swamp Ecological Preserve is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. It features the plants of a longleaf pine savannah. Once prevalent in the Southeastern United States, today 97% of longleaf pine savannahs are gone. Prescribed burns benefit the flora of the area and reduce woody shrubs. Jim focused on the orchids and carnivorous plants found there.

The orchid photography was beautiful to view and also edifying as the orchids' pollinators and pollination processes were explained. Orchids are famous for tricking their pollinators. Various varieties of orchids bloom nearly every month of the year in the Green Swamp. Orchid hybrids were also shown.

Four types of carnivorous plants were presented: pitcher plants, sundews, flytraps, and butterworts. Carnivorous plants attract, trap, retain, kill, digest, and assimilate their prey. They are classified as active or passive. Of the four types listed above, pitcher plants and butterworts are passive; sundews and fly-traps are active.

Throughout and following the presentation, Jim entertained comments and questions. Copies of his book about the Green Swamp were sold afterwards. Jim graciously provided a copy of his book for the Ginter Botanical Garden's library, and it was presented to Janet Woody, Ginter's librarian, during the meeting.

To learn more about Jim's wildflower adventures and enjoy his photography, visit www.jfowlerphotography.com.

Business Meeting: The meeting was opened with references to a variety of announcements posted in the meeting room. Minutes of the last meeting (April 2015) were available in the May 2015 newsletter. Richard Moss, treasurer, reported that the chapter's current balance is \$4,472.27.

Nominating Committee Report: The election will be held at the October meeting. Slate presented by Daune Poklis:

President - Leslie Allanson, Vice President - Catharine Tucker, Secretary - Irene Caperton, Treasurer - Richard Moss, Past President - Catharine Tucker

Committee chairs are volunteers and not elected. These include:

Membership - RubyJane Robertson, Newsletter - Richard Moss, Publicity - Suzanne Jenkins, Chapter Representative - Suzanne Jenkins, Web Site - Open, Richard Moss, Field Trips - Robert Wright.

Membership Report: RubyJane Robertson reported that the chapter has 115 members. During 2015, 12 new members have been added.

Project Reports: Dabney Robinson reported that a work day for the Ginter Botanical Garden privet pull project will be September 9, 8-11 A.M. Contact person is Caroline Meehan (djrtmeehan@juno.com.) Meet in the main registration hall, dress for the weather, and bring your favorite small hand tools, hat, gloves, etc. Stay for all or any portion of the scheduled time. Two work days will also be scheduled for October, November, and December. Lesley Allanson is preparing a letter for use with native plant landscaping in Henrico County and will be requesting feedback from members. Her next meeting with Henrico County leaders will be on September 11.

Work with the James River Park Invasives Removal is underway with training completed and surveying taking place. In response to a request from Ryan Klopff, Steward for Difficult Creek Natural Area, members will assist with roadside trash cleanup along roads giving access to Difficult Creek Natural Area on September 26. Meet at the Kroger at Stonebridge (the old Cloverleaf Mall), Routes 60 and 150 at 8 A.M. The contact person is Leslie Allanson (leleorr4@gmail.com.) Notify her in advance to receive a waiver to be signed.

Upcoming field trips:

September 19 - Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks. Meet at 10 A.M. in the Martin's parking lot, Route 10 and near Route 1. Contact person is Richard Moss (Richard@mossrd.org.)

September 20 - Dorey Park. Meet at 4 P.M. Contact person is Leslie Allanson (leleorr4@gmail.com.)

New Business: Janet Woody, Ginter Botanical Garden Librarian, asked the chapter to consider assisting with a project to make a new edition of Louise Burke's 1972 booklet on tree identification. The chapter would like additional information. Larry Bartenstein volunteered to provide assistance.

Next Meeting: At the 7:00 P.M., Thursday, October 1, 2015 meeting to be held at Ginter, Carol Heiser will be the presenter on "The Native Plant Marketing Coalition."

Respectfully submitted, Irene Caperton, Secretary

Field Trips:

Dorey Park, Sept. 21, 2015: 1. The group at the walk.
2. Among the plants seen was this Evergreen ginger, *Hexastylis virginica* - growing in a rotting log like being set in a planter.



Field Trip - R. Garland Dodd at Point of Rocks Park:

We had a nice group including two people visiting from Washington State.

Photos: 1. Beech nuts on an American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*).
2. Purple Passion flower vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) in flower.



3. Our group of Field Trippers.



Some photos I took in Spring Grove, VA on Sept. 27.



1. Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*). 2,3 Unidentified but interesting fungi. No. 2



was a striking purple and no. 3 looked like ice.

4. Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*).
5. Beech drops (*Epifagus americana*).

RichardMoss

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