



*THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY*

February 2016



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday February 4, 2016
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

“Establishing a Framework for Invasive Plant Management Using Ecological Principles and Citizen Science”

by

**Christopher R. Senfield – VHB, Douglas A. DeBerry – College of William and Mary/Vanasse Hangen
Brustlin, Inc., AND Nathan Burrell – James River Park System.**

Learn About a Unique Plan to Manage Invasive Plants in James River Park

You think managing invasive plants in your yard was difficult; try a 600 acre municipal park with multiple units spread out along the banks, floodplains, and adjacent riparian zone of a major river. Learn about the ambitious plan to establish a framework for invasive plant management in the James River Park System.

Creating the invasive plant management framework is a collaborative effort between Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., the James River Park System management, and a multi-dimensional team of stakeholders from over 15 non-profit groups, state and local agencies, and academia.

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### **Chapter Meetings:**

**March 3 - PROGRAM:** “Urban/Suburban Habitat Systems,” Emily Gianfortoni, member VNPS & Certified Master Naturalist and Habitat Trainer.

**April 7 - PROGRAM:** “Plants do the Strangest Things: Pollination in an Underground Flower,” Dr. John Hayden, University of Richmond.

**May** date and time to be determined - Annual Picnic.

### **Chapter Events:**

#### **Privet Removal work days at Lewis Ginter:**

- Feb. 16 Tues 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Beth Farmer
- Mar. 01 Tues 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Dabney Robinson
- Mar. 13 Sun 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Caroline Meehan

Meet at Admission Hall and bring your favorite small tools, dress for the weather outside, hat, gloves etc. Please notify leader in advance so we can notify you in the event of cancellation for bad weather. Many thanks in advance for your assistance, see you in the Garden! Any questions please contact Beth Farmer [beth16085@hotmail.com](mailto:beth16085@hotmail.com) or Caroline Meehan at [cjrtmeehan@juno.com](mailto:cjrtmeehan@juno.com).

#### **Dorey Park Native Plant Sunday Strolls Resume and Expand**

After a break for the holidays, Sunday Strolls at Dorey Park will resume February 21 at 2 p.m. These approximately two hour walks are led by members of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. The Sunday strolls provide an opportunity to observe the seasonal changes in the park’s interesting and diverse native plant communities.

Starting in March the park experience will be expanded by holding two strolls per month, each on a different Sunday. The first walk of each month will be in the same area as the original strolls and the second walk will

explore a different area of the park. The March strolls are on the 13th and 20th; both start at 2 p.m. Dorey Park is in eastern Henrico County (<http://henrico.us/rec/places/dorey/>).

Contact Leslie Allanson at [leleorr4@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **February 19, 2016 (Friday) from 5:00 PM 9:00 PM "Ecology in Motion" at the Science Museum:**

Doug Tallamy will be the featured speaker at a free community event at the using the theme is "Ecology in Motion." Our chapter booth will promote awareness of Virginia's native plants. and their value in the landscape. We currently have 4 people who have volunteered to help set up, clean up, and answer questions about VNPS and Virginia's flora; at least 4 more volunteers would mean no one has to stay more than an hour or so at the table. Contact Catharine for details about helping at (804) 9386941 or [cath.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tucker@gmail.com). The Sign-up Sheet will be available at the February 4 Meeting!

### **March 12, 2016 - VNPS Winter Workshop**

Our chapter is providing morning refreshments before the seminars begin and at the morning break. All we contribute is the effort to provide the coffee, tea, fruit, and sweet rolls. We will set up 8:30 - 9:00 AM and pack up at 3:00 PM. To help with this, you can come in the morning or afternoon. Please contact Catharine Tucker at [(804) 938-6941 or email [cath.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tucker@gmail.com).

## **President's Message**

Hi Everyone,

I am looking out my home office window as I write this, watching the 12 inches of snow from Jonas melt away in the sunshine and balmy 60 degrees...only in Virginia right? I hope you all fared well in the snow and are enjoying outside time this weekend.

I want to ask you each a favor. Read the State Mission statement for the VNPS. It is a wonderful, well written, overarching Mission statement and I think it serves its purpose well at the State level.

*The Virginia Native Plant Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the native plants of Virginia and their habitats, in order to sustain for generations to come the integrity of the Commonwealth's rich natural heritage of ecosystems and biodiversity for purposes of enjoyment, enlightenment, sustainable use, and our own very survival. To this end, we advocate and follow practices that will conserve our natural endowment, and we discourage and combat practices that will endanger or destroy it. We are committed to do all we can to slow the accelerating conversion of natural landscape to built and planted landscape and to reduce its damage to natural ecosystems.*

I will be honest, I had to read it 3 or 4 times to fully understand it and realize its power.

I would like to see our chapter develop a Chapter Mission Statement (I am assuming we don't have one), that complements the State mission. I want your input; I would ask you to give it thought and send me one or two sentences about what you see our chapter's mission being. Keep in mind we serve the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond and the mixture of Urban/Suburban/Rural make-up of our "jurisdiction". What should we be doing? Email me at [leleorr4@gmail.com](mailto:leleorr4@gmail.com), drop me a note 6194 Hines Road Henrico VA 23231, or come to the February or March meeting and give to me in person. Hope to see you on the 4th and don't forget to bring a friend/neighbor/coworker/random person.

### **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.....Leslie Allanson**  
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**Vice President.....Catharine Tucker**  
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#### **Chapter Website**

[pocahontaschapter-vnps.org](http://pocahontaschapter-vnps.org)

Leslie Allanson

## Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, January 14, 2016

**Welcome:** President Leslie Allanson called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone and asking visitors to self introduce. Twenty seven members and eight guests were present.

**Announcements:** Volunteers are needed for Tuesday LGBG privet removal on January 19 and February 2 at 12:45 p.m.

Members were urged to sign up at the back of the room to help staff "Ecology in Motion" at the Science Museum on Friday, February 19 between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. where our chapter will have a booth (along with other like-minded organizations) to promote Virginia's native plants. This free interactive and educational event, bringing a spotlight onto ecology, conservation, and native plants is sponsored by the Richmond Ballet.

(<http://www.richmondballet.com/2016/01/07/ecology-in-motion/>). Doug Tallamy will be the featured speaker.

Catharine Tucker is contact for volunteering.

Dorey Park Sunday Strolls are planned for February 21, and March 13 and 20 at 2 p.m.

The VNPS Winter Workshop at University of Richmond is scheduled for March 12. Our chapter will provide refreshments again. Volunteers were asked to sign up at the back of the room or contact Catharine Tucker.

**Program:** Catharine Tucker introduced the evening's speaker, Kristi Orcutt. Kristi describes herself as a former bug-phobic who took up beekeeping 10 years ago and now dedicates much of her time to teaching and mentoring beekeepers in central Virginia. After learning about Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and discovering that traditional beekeeping practices involved using fungicides and pesticides inside the hives to control hive pests, she made the decision to choose another beekeeping management mode – "cide" free beekeeping. To promote natural beekeeping in central Virginia, she co-founded Rockwood Park Backyard Beekeepers Association in 2009. She also keeps bee hives at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden where she serves as a Children's Garden educator and program developer. Kristi gave a dynamic introduction to the lives of bees that included audience participation making it easier for everyone to understand what goes on in a hive and the roles of drones, workers, and the queen. She discussed the threats to bees and her attempts to keep her bees safe and healthy. Although most honey bees are not native, they play an important role in agriculture in this country. Native bees are important because of role they play in pollinating native plants; they need each other.

**Business Meeting:** Due to the lateness of the hour, the business meeting was abbreviated. The minutes from the November meeting (published in December Newsletter) were approved. Treasurer, Richard Moss reported a balance of \$4,639.08. Membership Chair, Dabney Robinson, reported 110 members. Catharine Tucker gave an update on progress of James River Park Invasives Removal Project. The Chapter's February program will feature the professional ecologists who are guiding this program. Suzanne Jenkins urged members to visit VNPS website for updates on state activities, including registering for the Winter Workshop at University of Richmond. The 2016 annual state meeting will be in Blacksburg September 9 – 11 and the 2017 meeting will be co-hosted with Potowmack Chapter and the native plant societies of Maryland and West Virginia at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Respectfully Submitted

Suzanne Jenkins, Acting Secretary

## Event of interest

Saturday, February 13, 2016 9:00 AM-12:00 PM The Friends of the James River Park is seeking volunteers to help remove invasive English Ivy vines from trees next to the park headquarters at Reedy Creek. They will be working in the area the goats were grazing a few months back. Volunteers are needed and will meet in front of the park headquarters. All tools and supplies will be provided. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes. Please bring work gloves if you have them. See:

[http://www.handsonrva.org/HOC\\_Volunteer\\_Opportunity\\_Details\\_Page?id=a0CA000000klxZHMAY&wrs=HOC0019-002-5cfca156-d0e2-4f85-b935-39530b0fe40d](http://www.handsonrva.org/HOC_Volunteer_Opportunity_Details_Page?id=a0CA000000klxZHMAY&wrs=HOC0019-002-5cfca156-d0e2-4f85-b935-39530b0fe40d) for more information.

## Field Trip Updates – Proposed trips - by Robert Wright

- Currently negotiating access to Keswick Farm (Powhatan Co, off Robious Rd) for a late March foray.
- In discussions with landowner to have a half-day day excursion at Crumps Mill, New Kent in April.
- Powhite Park in April (one Saturday).
- Trip to Hampstead Estate, Hanover County in May. Expect Lots of orchids.
- In discussion with Dominion Power for weekend excursion for Darbytown Bogs in May

## Adventures in the Forest - no Flora of interest but interesting Fauna

by Richard Moss

On January 10th, I was walking in the woods back of my house with my cat and spotted this red-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) on an overturned tree stump. The temperature was in the 50's and it didn't move, even when my cat almost stepped on it. The cat didn't notice the newt.



On January 14th, I again walked in the woods back of the house and ran across this fellow directly in my path. A very nice copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)! Again the temperature was in the 50's and it didn't move while I took several pictures.



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