



Let's gather (safely) Pocahontas Chapter members at 11:30 at Echo Lake Park on May 1, 2021, for a picnic and plant walk. This is a bring-your-own-food picnic. We have reserved a pavilion thanks to Daune Poklis. We will eat at noon and walk from around 12:30 to 2:00. There is an easy trail around the lake with a variety of vegetation. COVID restrictions are in place, so please respect distancing and masking when appropriate. The website for the Echo Lake website from Henrico County Parks and Recreation: <https://henrico.us/rec/places/echo-lake/>
We hope to see you at the lake.

June 5, 2021, Richmond National Battlefield Park BioBlitz

Marie Pinto, Community Volunteer Ambassador at the Richmond National Battlefield Park, has asked if chapter members would like to participate in a bioblitz. Details below.

Richmond National Battlefield Park is preparing for our annual BioBlitz, a day-long event where park staff, naturalists, and citizen scientists gather to document biodiversity in the park. We plan to host our 2021 BioBlitz on Saturday, June 5. With the summer COVID outlook still uncertain, we will be hosting a scaled-down event with a focus on meadow habitats in our Malvern Hill unit. We'd like to have at least four teams, focused on documenting the diversity of plants, insects, herps, and mammals.

For more information about the national BioBlitz program, check out Bioblitz | National Geographic Society. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/bioblitz/>

Minutes of the the April 1, 2021 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS held via Zoom

After an excellent talk by Lara Gastinger on Botanical Art: Illustrations, Watercolors, and Nature Journals, where along with other information she showed how to set up a perpetual journal. A page for every week for a year. You draw 1 observation a week on a page. You then add more to each page every year. It helps you observe seasonal changes and learn plants. It improves drawing skills, and is a mindful practice. Makes you more curious and observant. If you skipped a week - its okay. You can add to it future years.

We then had a short business meeting where we discussed future field trips.

Upcoming Summer Trips:

Sunday, April 25th, 2-4 p.m. at Dorey Park Host: Leslie

Saturday, May 1st, 12-4 p.m. Socially Distanced May Picnic BYO lunch at Deep Run Park. Host: Jason/ Daune (Waiting to confirm reservation) Dawn Poklis.

The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

serves the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, 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

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Saturday, May 22nd, 1-4 p.m at John J. Radcliffe

Conservation Area. Host: Richard Moss. Bring a snack - informal picnic. Easy Walk. Contact Richard by e-mail at richard@mossrd.org or by phone at 804-748-2940 if you wish to attend.

Future Walks details not finalized:

June - Early June Lisa Hamilton

July - Big Meadows with Joey Thompson

August - Eco Lake Beginning of August

September - R Garland Dodd Richard

October - none yet

November 10th - Capital Trail to see Gentian

Other Potential Walks:

Poor Farm in June with Catherine Tucker

Meadow at Malvern Hill Ashley

Joey Thompson at Wahrani

Appomattox Regional Park

Dutch Gap - Lisa Hamilton Early June

Capital Trail on a Sunday

Low Line

New Deep Bottom Property - Ashley

Trip leaders Need a Sign up Sheet.

Ashley Moulton Secretary

More Virtual Field Trips

by Richard Moss

With covid restrictions easing and more people being vaccinated we are planning some real field trips in the future, but for this Newsletter since we have had no field trips, so I again visited several local parks to report on what was there.

Forest Hill Park in Richmond on April 7: 1. Star Chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*); 2. Spring beauty, (*Claytonia virginica*); 3. May apples (*Podophyllum peltatum*).



In my back yard 1. These bluets were in full bloom on April 9.
2. Pinxter azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*) was in bloom on April 11.



Dutch conservation area. This area in Chesterfield county consists of a tidal lagoon created when the interior of a loop in the James river cut off by the dutch gap canal was later mined for sand and gravel. The loop trail is about 4.5 miles. I visited this area on April 16. We are planning a field trip here in June.



1. Map. 2. Connection between the lagoon and the old river channel. 3. Sedges growing beneath trees in a wet area.

More from the Dutch Gap conservation area.



1. View across the lagoon. 2. Detail of the bark of a hackberry tree (*Celtis occidentalis*). 3. Cut Leaf Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*). 4. May apples (*Podophyllum peltatum*). 5. Jack in the pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*).



6. Spring beauty, (*Claytonia virginica*). 7. Small bluets (*Houstonia pusilla*), note most of these are white rather than the usual purple, although there are a few purple ones. 8. Bear's foot (*Smallanthus uvedalius*).



9. Sassafras flowers (*Sassafras albidum*)

